**■ BUSINESS / B1**

**Experts urge gov't to curb appreciating peso for sake of people's purchasing power**

**■ NEWS / A12**

**Independent LPG retailers slash prices by P1.50/kg**

**■ NEWS / A2**

**Jinggoy collapses from exhaustion at graduation rites**

**■ ENTERTAINMENT / A3-1**

**Salma Hayek on nude scene with Hollywood 'bad boy' Colin Farrell**

## Mike A to senators: It's you who should resign, not GMA

MAUNA NA DAW KAYO!

THE FIVE SENATORS WHO are seeking President Macapagal-Arroyo's resignation, not the President, should step down, First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo said yesterday.

"It's you who must resign, not the President,

MIKE A/ A8

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Friday, April 7, 2006 ★★ 10 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 120 P18 website: www.inq7.net

## Malacañang to 'Senate 5': Hypocrites, ignorant

**By Gil Cabacungan Jr. and Cynthia Balana**

MALACAÑANG SCOFFED AT A GROUP OF SENAtors, calling them "ignorant" and "hypocrites," for reviving calls for President Macapagal-Arroyo to step down after Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra decided to resign amid mounting opposition in Thailand.

"Critics show their deep ignorance of how our current system of government works when they

MALACAÑANG/ A20

# 'Don't rely on OFW money'

## Cops hose down anti-Cha-cha demonstration

**By Margaux C. Ortiz and DJ Yap**

FOR 15 MINUTES YESTERDAY, they stood on forbidden ground. And then they were hosed down.

Months after the administration's calibrated preemptive response (CPR) policy barred demonstrators from setting foot on historic Chino Roces Bridge (formerly Mendiola), more than 1,000 activists protesting Charter change and demanding President Macapagal-Arroyo's resignation triumphantly claimed the area.

Organizers said it was so far the biggest protest action against Charter change this year.

And Renato Reyes, secretary general of Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, said: "This is the first time we reached Mendiola since the CPR policy [began to be] implemented last year.

"That in itself is a victory."

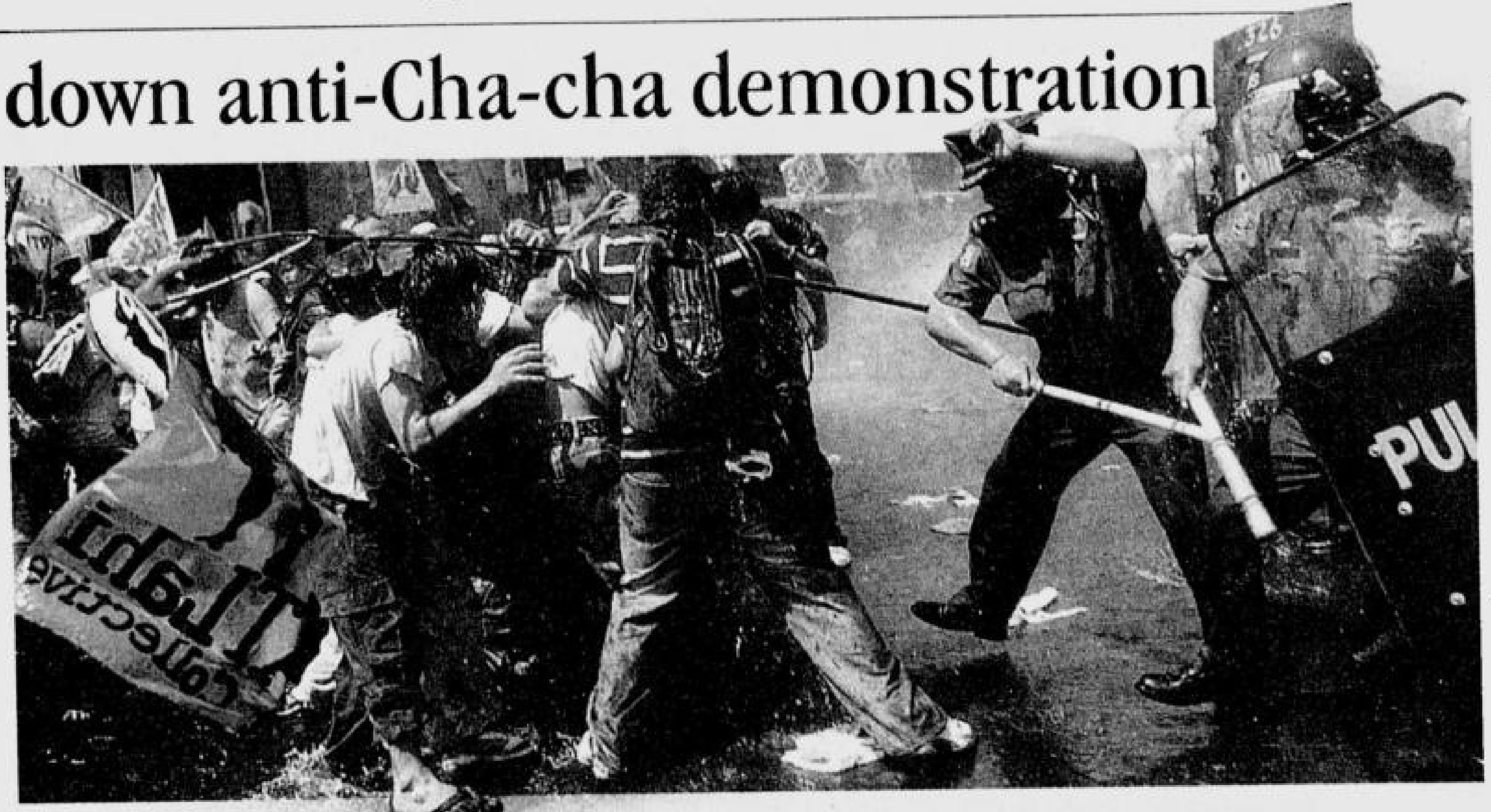
But the activists had to play cat-and-mouse with police to be able to enter the city of Manila.

Because they were blocked at the Mabuhay Rotunda, the boundary between Manila and Quezon City, the activists decided to break up into small groups and pass through the inner streets of Sampaloc in Manila.

They reached Mendiola at around 1:45 p.m. and prepared to start their program.

But antiriot police moved in, using water cannons and truncheons to disperse them.

COPS/ A8



**WATERED DOWN VICTORY.** Forbidden territory since the infamous CPR, Chino Roces Bridge (Mendiola) is reclaimed, if only for 15 minutes, by militants demanding the ouster of President Arroyo. Even if truncheoned and "cannonized" by antiriot cops, they claim pride of place and victory.

## 'Come visit to breathe the air of freedom,' RP envoy invites New York Times editors

**By Volt Contreras**

IT FELL UPON THE COUNTRY'S top diplomat in the Big Apple to refute the scathing New York Times editorial which sought to alert Washington about President Macapagal-Arroyo's "increasingly authoritarian tendencies" that could invite "terrorist pressures."

"The editorial 'Dark Days for Philippine Democracy' in [Wednesday's] issue of The New York Times must have been written through a glass darkly," said Philippine Ambassador to the United Nations Lauro Baja Jr., whose letter to the editor was quoted yesterday in a statement by the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Baja even ended his letter with a tourism pitch, inviting Times editors—and readers—to "come visit the Philippines, breathe the air of freedom in a democracy that is thriving in our fertile

COME/ A8

CHA-CHA CAMPAIGN

## Comelec official finds 'ghost' signatories in 2 provinces

**By Jerome Aning, Cynthia D. Balana and Tina G. Santos**

DEAD AND "GHOST" SIGNATOries have cropped up in at least two provinces where the verification of signatures for the petition for Charter change is ongoing, a Commission on Elections official said yesterday.

The ranking official, who asked not to be named because he had no authority to speak to the media but who was privy to the verification being conducted in the provinces, cited the case of a dead councilor of a town in Rizal whose purported signature was on the petition.

After inspecting the signature, the election registrar found that it was the councilor's wife who had signed "in behalf of her dead husband."

In another province, which the official did not name, 12 percent of the signatories were not on the list of registered voters.

According to the official, the groups pushing for a people's initiative to amend the 1987 Constitution were "really spending money for it."

"What they do is lie, lie and lie to the people [about the real intention of the initiative]," he said.

He also wondered why, in some instances, it was officials and personnel of the Department of Interior and Local Government who were going to the Comelec regional offices to request the verification.

"If the initiative is a people's move, why are there DILG people?" he said.

James Arthur Jimenez, Comelec spokesperson for initiative matters, said the agency's central

COMELEC/ A10

JOAN BONDOC

**A MOTHER IS HEALING.** On the 18th birthday of the late KC de Venecia, her mother Gina (left) is light of heart like the butterflies she lets go, one alighting on President Arroyo at the INA Healing Center, now under construction, at the DSWD, Batasan Hills.

## ADB cites other factors for stunted RP growth

**By Doris C. Dumlao**

THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT Bank yesterday warned that sluggish investments, along with high dependence on overseas workers' remittances and consumption, were stunting potentials for higher economic growth in the Philippines.

In its flagship annual economic publication, Asian Development Outlook (ADO), the bank projected that the country's gross domestic product would rise by only 5 percent this year against the government's downscaled growth target of 5.5 to 6.2 percent and the 5.1-percent growth posted in 2005.

Growth for 2007 was forecast by the ADB at 5.3 percent.

"There is no immediate prospect of a significant improvement in the growth outlook. Consumption will remain the main driver from the demand side, with support from remittances," the ADB said.

"Introduction of the expanded value-added tax helped lift confidence in the outlook at a time of political uncertainty, though the quality of fiscal consolidation will be watched closely," the ADB said. "Investment continues to lag, while the dependence of growth on consumption and on remittance inflows limits prospects. In the near and medium term, growth of 5 percent is projected."

Inflation was seen to average 6.8 percent this year and 6.5 percent next year, easing from 7.6 percent in 2005.

The ADB lamented that the country's growth performance was falling short of what was required to make "significant inroads into persistent high levels of poverty and unemployment."

It noted that the country's unemployment rate remained

DON'T/ A10

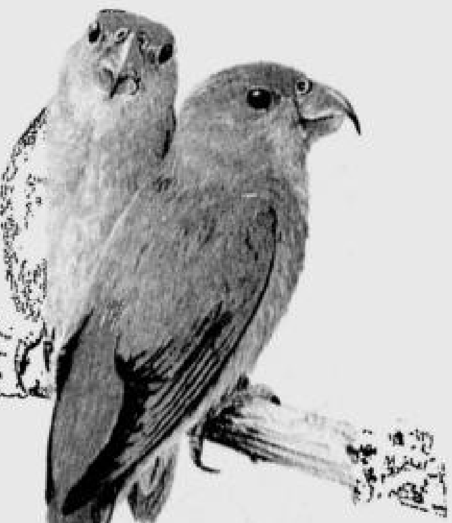
## New species —parrot, mouse— found in Camiguin

TWO NEW SPECIES HAVE BEEN FOUND IN the Philippines, one of the world's biodiversity hot spots facing environmental degradation and deforestation.

A brightly plumaged parrot and a long-tailed forest mouse unique to the country have been discovered in the vanishing rain forest of Camiguin Island, US-based researchers said yesterday.

Camiguin, a volcanic island in northern Mindanao, is a treasure trove of fauna, and already had endemic species of rodents and frogs before the discovery of the rusty brown mouse and the green hanging parrot, known among locals as "Colasisi."

2 NEW SPECIES/ A8



**GREEN HANGING-PARROT** known locally as "colasisi" is not exactly unique to the pet trade. It is prized for its bright blue throat and thighs. Males and females have identical plumage which is unusual for this kind of parrot.

## WHO lists remedies for critical shortage of health workers

COMMENTARY

*(The author, the World Health Organization's regional director for the Western Pacific announces on World Health Day today, April 7, a new alliance for human resources to remedy the critical shortage of doctors, nurses and other health workers in the developing world, specially the Philippines.)*

**By Dr. Shigeru Omi**

THE PAST CENTURY HAS SEEN THE most spectacular medical breakthroughs in human history, but these advances are of little value without qualified health workers to put them into practice.

Unfortunately, a steady exodus of doctors, nurses and other health workers from developing countries for higher-paying jobs abroad has created a health work force crisis. The resulting shortage of health workers in the developing world comes at a time when traditional diseases, such as malaria and tuberculosis, are combining with modern lifestyle-related diseases, such as diabetes and heart disease, to place an unprecedented strain on health care systems.

Add to this burden a wave of newly emerging threats such as avian influenza, and the day may not be too far off when the quality of health care will be jeopardized in many countries.

This critical shortage of doctors, nurses, midwives and other health workers takes its greatest toll on the poorest and most vulnerable populations.

In the World Health Organization's South-East Asia and Western Pacific regions, for instance, more than 5,000 children under the age of 28 days die every day. Many of those infants would survive if skilled attendants were on hand during childbirth. Yet, only 43 percent of births in India and 60 percent of births in the Philippines take place with the assistance of a health worker.

Many health workers from poorer

WHO LISTS/ A4

Second FrontPage
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Text us your feedback: inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

**WEATHER FORECAST**

FORECAST: Extreme Northern Luzon will have mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers. Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening.

COMPILED BY: KATE PEDROSO, PDI RESEARCH/04/06/06 SOURCE: PAGASA

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Metro Manila | Partly Cloudy | Iloilo/Bacolod | Cloudy with Rains |
| Baguio | Partly Cloudy | Roxas | Partly Cloudy |
| Tuguegarao | Partly Cloudy | Cebu | Cloudy with Rains |
| Laoag | Partly Cloudy | Tacloban | Cloudy with Rains |
| Clark Zone | Partly Cloudy | Gen. Santos | Partly Cloudy |
| Tagaytay | Partly Cloudy | Zamboanga | Cloudy with Rains |
| Legazpi | Partly Cloudy | Cagayan de Oro | Cloudy with Rains |
| Calapan | Partly Cloudy | Davao | Cloudy with Rains |

FERTILIZER SCAM

# Damning COA report out

By Philip C. Tubeza

AS OPPOSITION SENATORS PREPARE TO GO ON A NAtionwide campaign to force President Macapagal-Arroyo to resign, the Commission on Audit has released to the Senate a damning final report on the P728 million fertilizer fund scandal.

In a 33-page report released after a "special audit," the COA said the funds were used to buy fertilizers overpriced by 682 percent, or by P128 million, for the Department of Agriculture's Ginintuang Masaganang Ani (GMA) rice program.

COA auditors said there was "no system at all in the distribution of the fertilizers to establish accountability," resulting in "a hazy accountability for the government funds."

Administration critics have claimed that the GMA rice program was used to help the President win the May 2004 presidential elections, noting that the funds for it were released three months before the polls.

The COA report recommended that the DA coordinate with the Office of the Ombudsman in the prosecution of "officials involved in irregularities."

"There was no system at all in the distribution of the fertilizers to establish accountability and neither was there a simple coordination with proper local authorities," the report's executive summary read.

"These were evident from documents that appeared to be obviously falsified," it added.

The consolidated report, dated March 31, 2006, was prepared by six state auditors and was submitted to the Senate last Tuesday.

It was the result of a nationwide special audit conducted by a composite audit team from the COA central office and audit team leaders assigned to the 15 DA regional field offices (RFUs).

This was different from an ongoing special audit that COA is conducting on the P100 million from the Marcos ill-gotten assets that were also allegedly used for the GMA farm inputs program.

The report said the DA-RFUs bought foliar and organic liquid fertilizers from "so-called exclusive distributors" although the item was "readily available in the open market."

The DA's own Bureau of Soil and Water Management also does not recommend the use of foliar fertilizers under its "Tipid Abono Bawas Gastos, Saganang Ani" program, the report added.

"A canvass of prices disclosed lower prices than those paid. The prices paid by the RFUs exceeded the lowest price obtaining by an average of 682 percent or a total of P128 million," the report said.

It said two RFUs purchased fertilizers totaling P54.74 million from suppliers who were exclusive distributors of certain manufacturers "although other brands of fertilizers with equivalent composition could be obtained at lesser prices."

"Moreover, three brands of fertilizers submitted for tests revealed chemical compositions that fell short of representations printed on their labels," it added.

The report also did not spare former Agriculture undersecretary Jocelyn "Joc-joc" Bolante, who has refused to attend the Senate investigation into the alleged fund scam.

## PNP wants stiffer antiterrorism law

THE HEAD OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL Police yesterday welcomed initial approval of the antiterrorism bill but urged lawmakers to strengthen it by allowing longer detention of terror suspects and imposing the death penalty.

The House of Representatives passed the bill last Wednesday after prolife legislators blocked capital punishment. The bill would allow terror suspects to be held without warrant or charge for three days. Police had wanted a month.

"We were expecting a more strict law with longer detention and capital punishment," PNP Director General Arturo Lomibao told reporters. "But it's better than nothing."

Lomibao asked lawmakers to try to strengthen the bill before it is signed into law, citing past attacks that have caused numerous deaths and the potential for more terrorism.

The legislation still faces rough sailing. The Senate has to approve its own version, then work out any differences with the House before the President can sign it.

Opposition lawmakers have rejected the proposed legislation, saying President Macapagal-Arroyo would use it against her opponents. *AP with a report from TJ Burgonio*

## Sandigan: Erap has every right to proclaim innocence

By Nelson F. Flores

THE SANDIGANBAYAN SAYS FORmer President Joseph Estrada has the right to profess his innocence of plunder and perjury charges against him inside and outside the court but everyone else—witnesses, lawyers and the public—should stop making public comments on the merits of the case while it is pending in court.

Associate Justice Diosdado Peralta of the Sandigabyan's Special Division trying the former President made the clarification as he expounded on the three-judge court's observation that both prosecution and defense lawyers had been disregarding the so-called "sub judice rule."

"One should not equate the right of the accused with the right of the witness," Peralta said. "A witness has nothing to rebut. The accused has the right to profess his innocence inside and outside the court room."

Peralta made the comments during Wednesday's hearing of the Estrada plunder trial as it tackled a motion filed by defense lawyer Rene Saguisag asking the court for guidelines on the sub judice rule in light of comments considered unflattering to Estrada that had been made by Sen. Panfilo Lacson, Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson and INQUIRER columnist Belinda Olivares-Cunanan.

Peralta said there was no need for the court to issue guidelines for the lawyers.

"You know the rules, you police yourselves," Peralta said.

"The court can take action against lawyers who violate the sub judice rule. We can even recommend disciplinary measures against them. Do not test the limits of the patience of the court," Peralta added.

Peralta said prosecution and defense lawyers should not make judgments on matters that the court is supposed to rule on. He stressed that it was not the duty of the lawyers to judge the credibility or the relevance of the testimony of the witnesses.

But while the court upheld Estrada's right to defend himself from the charges against him, it did not lift an earlier ban on the former President giving interviews to the media.

Former Manila Prosecutor Jose Flaminiano, who is among Estrada's lawyers, told reporters the defense did not have to worry about Peralta's warning because it had not violated the sub judice rule. He said the admonition was directed more at Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio who continued to harp on the supposed irrelevance of defense witnesses.

Singson, the government's star witness against Estrada, said in a three-page comment on Saguisag's motion that he was amenable to and would comply with a "universal, absolute, mutual self-restraint" on comments.

ESTRADA

## Jinggoy collapses

SEN. JINGGOY ESTRADA COLLAPSED while handing out diplomas to the graduates of the Philippine Normal University in Alicia, Isabela, at around 3 p.m yesterday.

Mayor Napoleon Dy, quoting the doctor who quickly attended to Estrada, said it appeared the senator was suffering from exhaustion.

Dy said Estrada's condition was aggravated by the severe heat in the PNU gymnasium.

"*Ang tagal naming nakatayo kasi maraming* graduates, *kainit pa* (We were standing for a long time because there were many graduates and it was so hot)," he said.

The mayor said Estrada, after delivering his speech to the graduates, went to the center of the stage to hand out the diplomas assisted by PNU Alicia executive director Carmelito Pang. As the ceremony went on, Estrada's right leg buckled and he fell to the stage.

Dy said Estrada was conscious all the time and was taken to the Manango Hospital in Alicia.

Estrada was airlifted to the Makati Medical Center after 4 p.m. on the advice of his personal physician, Dy said.

A helicopter flew the son of ousted President Joseph Estrada to the Pacific Star building in Makati from where he was taken to the MMC where he arrived at 6 p.m. and where the Estrada family doctor, Larry Jocson, was waiting for him.

His mother Sen. Loi Estrada and fellow senator and actor Bong Revilla were also at the hospital. *Tarra V. Quismundo; Philip C. Tubeza; Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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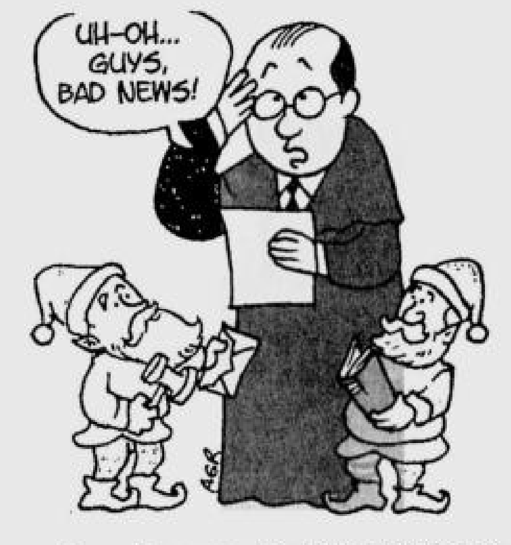
## SC dismisses 'psychic' judge



IT IS A CASE WHERE THE PUBLIC SEEMS JUStified when it occasionally wonders if strange things are going on in our justice system.

A member of the bench has made no bones about running his courtroom with the help of dwarfs and his ability, through his "psychic powers," to inflict pain on people and cause them to become sick.

But the dwarfs and his psychic powers were no help to Malabon City RTC Branch 73 Florentino V. Floro Jr. when the Supreme Court made short shrift of his nonsense.

"Psychic phenomena, even assuming such exist, have no place in a judiciary duty-bound to apply only positive law and, in its absence, equitable rules and principles in resolving controversies," the high court said in an en banc decision.

The tribunal ordered the relief of Floro, finding him to be suffering from a mental "disabling condition" which makes it impossible for him to discharge judicial functions.

Moreover, in a decision penned by Associate Justice Minita Chico-Nazario, the court found Floro guilty of seven out of the 13 administrative charges lodged against him by the Office of the Court Administrator.

Among others, Floro admitted that he believed in "psychic visions" which allowed him to see into the future.

He also disclosed that he had forged a covenant with his "dwarf friends," that he could write while in a trance and that several people could attest to his ability to be in two places at the same time.

Under questioning by court officials, Floro also admitted conducting healing sessions in his chambers during breaks.

The court also ordered Judge FLoro to pay P40,000 as penalty for transporting his courtroom to never-never land. But it awarded him back salaries, allowances and other economic benefits corresponding to three years.

"It could very well be that Judge Floro's current administrative and medical problems are not totally of his making. He was duly appointed to judgeship and his mental problems, for now, appear to render him unfit with the delicate task of dispensing justice not because of any acts of corruption and debasement on his part but clearly due to a medically disabling condition," the SC said in explaining its ruling. *Armand Nocum*

## Start at the bottom, jobseekers told

THERE WOULD BE FEWER JOBLESS FILipinos if more of them would be willing to start from the bottom, according to President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"Be willing to start at the bottom because many of these jobs are well-paying even at the bottom. Be willing to show how good you are when you are already on the job. There are many jobs available and it is important for you to be willing to accept these jobs that are available," the President said in an interview with reporters during the Tourism Jobs Fair of the Department of Tourism yesterday.

Ms Arroyo seemed to be echoing Trade and Industry Secretary Peter Favila's earlier claim that there was no lack of job opportunities in the country but that unemployed Filipinos were just picky about what jobs to take.

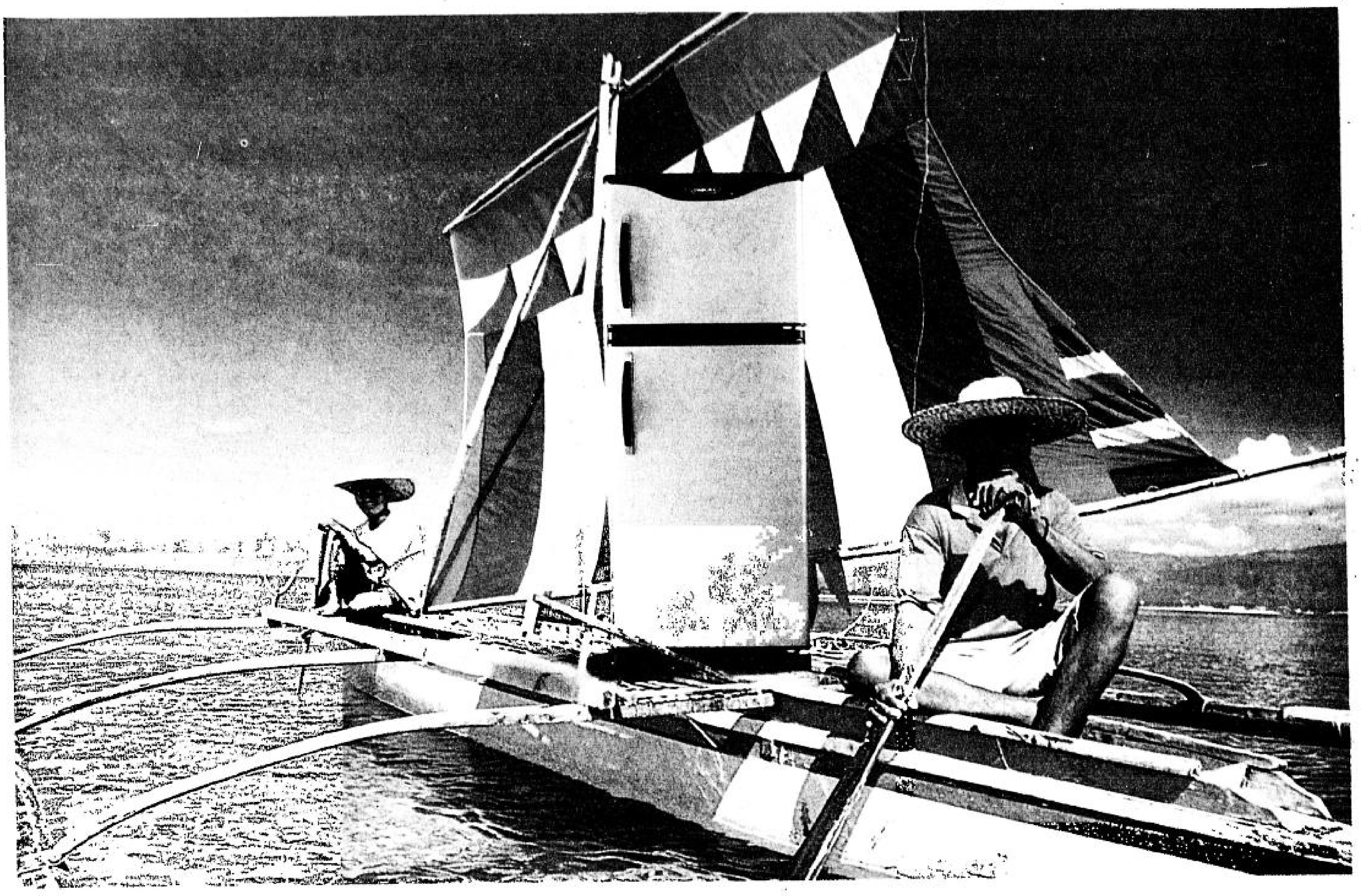
To prove her point, the President said that while there were 34,000 jobs up for grabs at the Jobs Fair, only 18,000 applicants have so far showed up for the event.

"The important thing is to be able to match the demand with what the job seeker is willing to do and able to do. Log on to the website, look at the jobs available, see where you can best fit [in]," said the President.

Ms Arroyo said she hoped all the 34,000 jobs would be filled.

Those whose resumes fail to meet the criteria set by employers were advised by the President to get in touch with the state-run Technical Education and Skills Authority (Tesda).

"The training program of Tesda is really in accordance with the jobs available so that you can have a few more months of training and the jobs will be available to you," she said. *Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*



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# WHO lists remedies for critical shortage of health workers

From page A1

countries are being pulled away by the lure of bigger pay and better working conditions in wealthier nations. In fact, about one-quarter of all licensed physicians in Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States are from the developing world, with India, the Philippines and Pakistan providing most of them.

In effect, developing countries are providing a reverse subsidy, in which the costs of the global mobility of health workers are being shouldered by poorer source countries, while the benefits are concentrated in wealthier recipient countries. The result: Asia has about three health workers for every 1,000 people, less than one-tenth the ratio in North America.

## 15,000 nurses gone yearly

The effects of unfettered migration can be devastating. The Philippines loses more than 15,000 nurses annually, more than any other country. Many of them are among the country's best-educated and most-experienced nurses, leaving a critical shortage of qualified specialty nurses.

Not a few doctors in the Philippines are training for higher-paying nursing jobs in the United States.

The shortage of doctors, nurses and health workers in the developing world is made worse by imbalances within many countries, where there might be a sufficient number of doctors and nurses in cities but too few in the countryside.

Health workers are not just the cornerstone of health systems. By improving the quality of life of others, they enable them to be fuller members of society. In countries with inadequate numbers of health workers, national productivity suffers and the fabric of society is weakened.

## Needs of unsung heroes

But policy-makers often overlook the needs of these unsung heroes. Decades of budget cuts and under-investment have created the crisis we now face.

What can be done?

First, we need to pay health workers reasonable salaries. While it is true that the kinds of pay increases that can be offered in developing countries won't close the gap with salaries elsewhere, paying decent wages and paying them on time will go a long way toward convincing doctors, nurses and other health workers that their contribution to society is recognized.

## Creative solutions

Secondly, we need better nonfinancial incentives. In fact, we need a comprehensive package of reforms to address working conditions, transport, housing, opportunities for career advancement and the education of family members.

Thirdly, governments need to seek creative solutions. In Mongolia, where the average health worker earns only $40 a month, scholarships are being offered to medical students willing to return and work in rural areas for at least three years.

Thailand has found that training staff with a locally focused curriculum encourages retention in rural areas and a drop in migration.

## International cooperation

Finally, there needs to be better international cooperation. Wealthier nations must increase investment in the education and training of health professionals to meet their own domestic needs. They also need to target some of their development aid to programs that will help expand the health work force in poorer countries. And they need to work with ministries of health, training institutions and other relevant national authorities to avoid claims of "poaching" and other unethical recruiting practices.

A code of ethics is being developed by WHO and its partners to ensure transparency and fairness in the international recruitment of health workers.

Surveys of migrating workers show that the vast majority would prefer to work in their home countries as long as the conditions are right, which generally means a living wage and better working conditions.

## Corrections

IN THE APRIL 2 edition, a story on Page A25 of the Global Pinoy section, "When in trouble abroad, help is a text away 24/7" lacked a digit in the number of SOS SMS. It should be +63 9209 639767—not +63920963967. The same article also misstated that the Center for Migrant Advocacy formed the Pusong Mamon Task Force. CMA did not create the task force, but is its partner. It was also mentioned that the idea for SOS SMS came up during a series of abductions involving Filipino workers in the Middle East. The idea came up not only as a response to the abductions, but also to the Middle East crisis in general from 2004 onward due to the US war against Iraq.

* * *

IN THE APRIL 5 issue, an article on Page A26 of the Sports section—"Filipino booters stall tough Indians in AFC tilt"—misstated that India ranked 18th and the Philippines ranked 91st in world football rankings. India ranked 118th while the Philippines ranked 191st.

* * *

IN YESTERDAY'S issue, a story on Page A2— "Army captain in coup plot falls"—misstated that the alleged coup plot against Ms Arroyo was aborted last month. According to the government, the coup plot was foiled in February—not last month.

* * *

*Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.*

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WHAT TO FILE

❖Form No. 1700
Annual Income Tax Return for Individuals Earning Compensation Income ( by individuals not qualified for substitute filing)
❖Form No. 1701Q
Quarterly Income Tax Return For Self-Employed, Estates And Trusts (including those with both Business and Compensation Income)
❖Form No. 1701
Annual Income Tax Return for Self-Employed, Estates and Trusts (including those with both Business and Compensation Income)
❖Form No. 1702
Annual Income Tax Return for Corporations and Partnerships

MODES OF PAYMENT

- OVER THE COUNTER TAX PAYMENTS
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- REVENUE COLLECTION OFFICERS
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  A system whereby a taxpayer, through a bank debit memo advice, authorizes withdrawals from an existing bank account for payment of tax liabilities.
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  An electronic processing and transmission of tax return information including attachments, and of taxes due to the government made through the internet via the BIR website.
- EFFICIENT SERVICE MACHINE (ESM)
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  Just text: PAYBIR amount MPIN Tax Type Tax Form Return Period Tax Identification Number · Taxpayer Branch Code Revenue District Office Code · Registered Name
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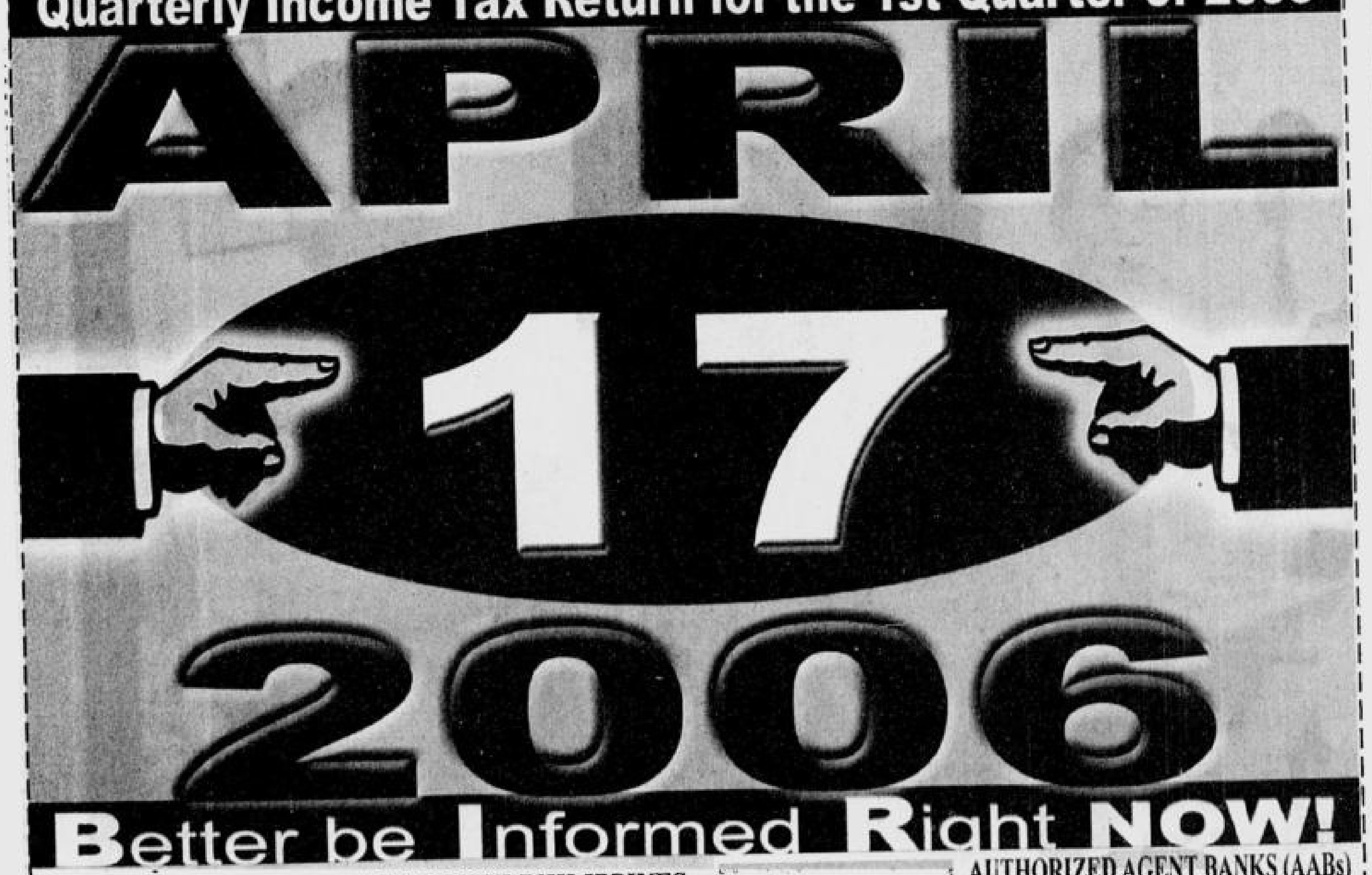
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# 4 DENR chiefs are no-shows at mining probe

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE FACT-FINDING COMMISSION CREATED BY Malacañang to look into the impact of the Rapu-Rapu polymetallic project in Albay was snubbed by four of the five former and incumbent environment secretaries invited to the hearing.

Antonio Cerilles, Elisea Gozun and Michael Defensor, all past environment and natural resources secretaries, as well as current department head Angelo T. Reyes, failed to show up for yesterday's hearing in Quezon City.

Only Heherson Alvarez, who signed Lafayette Philippines Inc.'s environmental compliance certificate (ECC) in July 2001, appeared before the commission.

Alvarez said Lafayette, which owns the mining project, had violated at least 10 conditions of its ECC.

The most obvious violation was the company's failure to construct dams that could hold up to five million tons of tailings and withstand 100 years of rainfall.

The dams Lafayette built could only withstand 25 years of heavy rainfall, or a fourth of the required capacity, Alvarez said.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources had slapped Lafayette with a P10.7-million fine for violating the Clean Water Act when it released waste water with mine tailings after its dams could no longer contain the volume during the rainy season in October and November last year. Fish in the waters in and around the Rapu-Rapu island-municipality died off.

"Foreign companies are attempting to cut costs by not following correct specifications in the construction of requirements such as dams," Alvarez said.

"In this case, where the lapses were so egregious, I will not only penalize the company but the DENR secretary ... The watchdog responsibility was not done too well," he said.

Alvarez, who was environment secretary from June 2001 to December 2002, said the DENR had failed to monitor Lafayette's compliance with the 29 conditions in its ECC.

In a statement, meanwhile, Lafayette said it would begin transforming Rapu-Rapu and the surrounding areas into a progressive community once it is allowed to resume operations.

Company chair and president Carlos G. Dominguez said various projects were in different stages of preparation.

Addressing Albay's Rotary Clubs and chamber of commerce in Legazpi City the other night, Dominguez said the firm was correcting its mistakes and wanted only to be a partner in the community's growth.

Expecting the remedial measures to be in place by the middle of the month, Lafayette has asked for a temporary authority to operate so that the corrective measures could be tested.

"We are no different from a car that cannot be tested for compliance with emission standards unless its engine is started and the car is test-driven," Dominguez said.

# Ecop says they too have rights

EMPLOYERS HAVE CONSTITUTIONAL rights, too, and they should not be compelled to hire or maintain, as a lawmaker has proposed, four-fifths of their work force as regular employees.

This was the position aired yesterday by the Employers Confederation of the Philippines (Ecop) on the House Bill No. 3338 filed by Rep. Mario Aguja of the Akbayan party-list group.

"While it is true that security of tenure is a constitutionally guaranteed right of the employees, it does not, however, mean perpetual employment for the employee because our law, while affording protection to the employee, does not authorize oppression or destruction of an employer," Ecop president Rene Soriano said in a press statement.

He said employers should not be prohibited from hiring contractuals to perform specific tasks for limited durations.

"It is well settled that the employer has the right or is at liberty to choose who will be hired and who will be denied employment. The right of a laborer to sell his labor to such persons as he may choose is, in its essence, the same as the right of an employer to purchase labor from any person whom it chooses," he added. *Jerome Aning*

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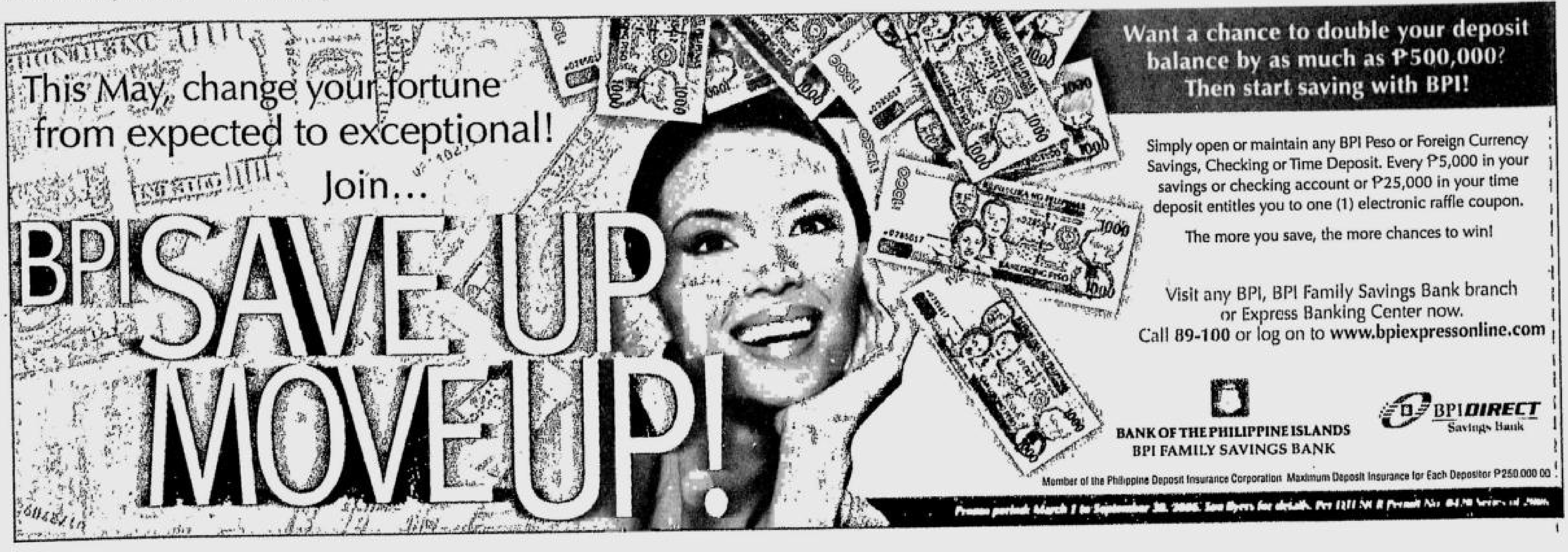
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GMA's Vicky Morales with Philippine Army Chief Lt. Gen. Germogenes Esperon, Jr.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

# Whistle-blower of AFP resort in Boracay frozen no more

**By Dona Z. Pazzibugan**

AN ARMY COLONEL WHO WAS RELIEVED last June for criticizing the construction of a special beach resort hotel in Boracay for the exclusive use of military personnel has been taken out of the "freezer" and given a new command, military officials said yesterday.

Army chief Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon confirmed that Col. Ricardo Morales was recently reinstated as a brigade commander in Bukidnon after nine months on the inactive list.

"There were indiscretions on his part that have to be corrected," Esperon said. "Let's see how things work out. He's not all bad."

"I don't even have to know if he's remorseful," Esperon said, adding it was enough that Morales knew that his acerbic writing delayed his promotion by at least six months.

Col. Ricardo Morales was commander of the 404th Infantry Brigade in Mawab, Davao Del Norte when he was relieved of his post last June 10, the same day the media reported his e-mail message criticizing the inappropriate construction of the beach front resort in Boracay.

## 'Indiscretion'

Morales' relief was recommended by AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga, who was then Philippine Army chief, for alleged "lack of good judgment and indiscretion." The recommendation was immediately approved by Gen. Efren Abu, the AFP chief at the time.

Morales, a member of the Philippine Military Academy's Class of 1977, was due for promotion to brigadier general at the time.

In a message to an e-mail group consisting of PMA alumni, Morales questioned the construction of the 60-room Boracay recreation center at a time the military badly needed funds for its operations. Construction of the resort began shortly after Abu became AFP chief in October 2004.

Abu claimed he had no involvement in the project and pointed to then AFP Central Command chief Emmanuel Teodosio, who retired last January. Teodosio said the resort was funded by private donors who wanted to give soldiers and their families enjoy a Boracay experience while on rest and recreation.

Morales appeared luckier than Col. Vicente Abat, eldest son of former defense secretary and Army chief Fortunato Abat, who was relieved last December as head of the 702nd Infantry Brigade in Nueva Ecija for allegedly spreading anti-government text messages. The elder Abat had declared himself at the time as president of a "transition government" that would take over once President Macapagal-Arroyo was ousted or resigned.

Abat remains without an assignment even though he has pledged loyalty to the chain of command.

Another Army colonel still in the "freezer" is Col. Jose Gamos, who was relieved for supposedly campaigning for the opposition during the 2004 elections. Gamos has vehemently denied the allegation.

---

## THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, April 7, 2006
5th Week of Lent

| | |
|---|---|
| 1st Reading: | Jer 20:1-13 |
| Gospel: | John 10:31-42 |

The Jews picked up stones to throw at Jesus so he said, "I have openly done many good works among you which the Father gave me to do. For which of these do you stone me?"

The Jews answered, "We are not stoning you for doing a good work but for insulting God; you are only a man and you make yourself God."

Then Jesus replied, "Is this not written in your Law: I said: you are gods? So those who received this word of God were called gods and the Scripture is always true. Then what should be said of the one anointed and sent into the world by the Father? Am I insulting God when I say: 'I am the Son of God?'

If I am not doing the works of my Father, do not believe me. But if I do them, even if you have no faith in me, believe because of the works I do, and know that the Father is in me and I in the Father."

Again they tried to arrest him, but Jesus escaped from their hands. He went away again to the other side of the Jordan, to the place where John had baptized, and there he stayed.

Many people came to him and said, "John showed no miraculous signs, but he spoke of this man and everything he said was true." And many became believers in that place.

**Commentary**

*Jeremiah is trapped and all intend him harm. They will take out their vengeance on him rather than look at the truth of what he says. He calls on God and entrusts himself to God who rescues the life of the poor from the power of the wicked. Those who reject Jesus seek to stone him to death and Jesus confronts them truthfully: for which of my many good deeds that I have shown you from the Father do you seek to kill me? He uses the words of scripture to defend his own words and his actions. But they are murderously blind.*

*Is there hatred, murderous intent and violence in our hearts? Do we allow anyone in our religion to do harm to others? Then the truth of Jesus' words are meant to sting us to the core.*

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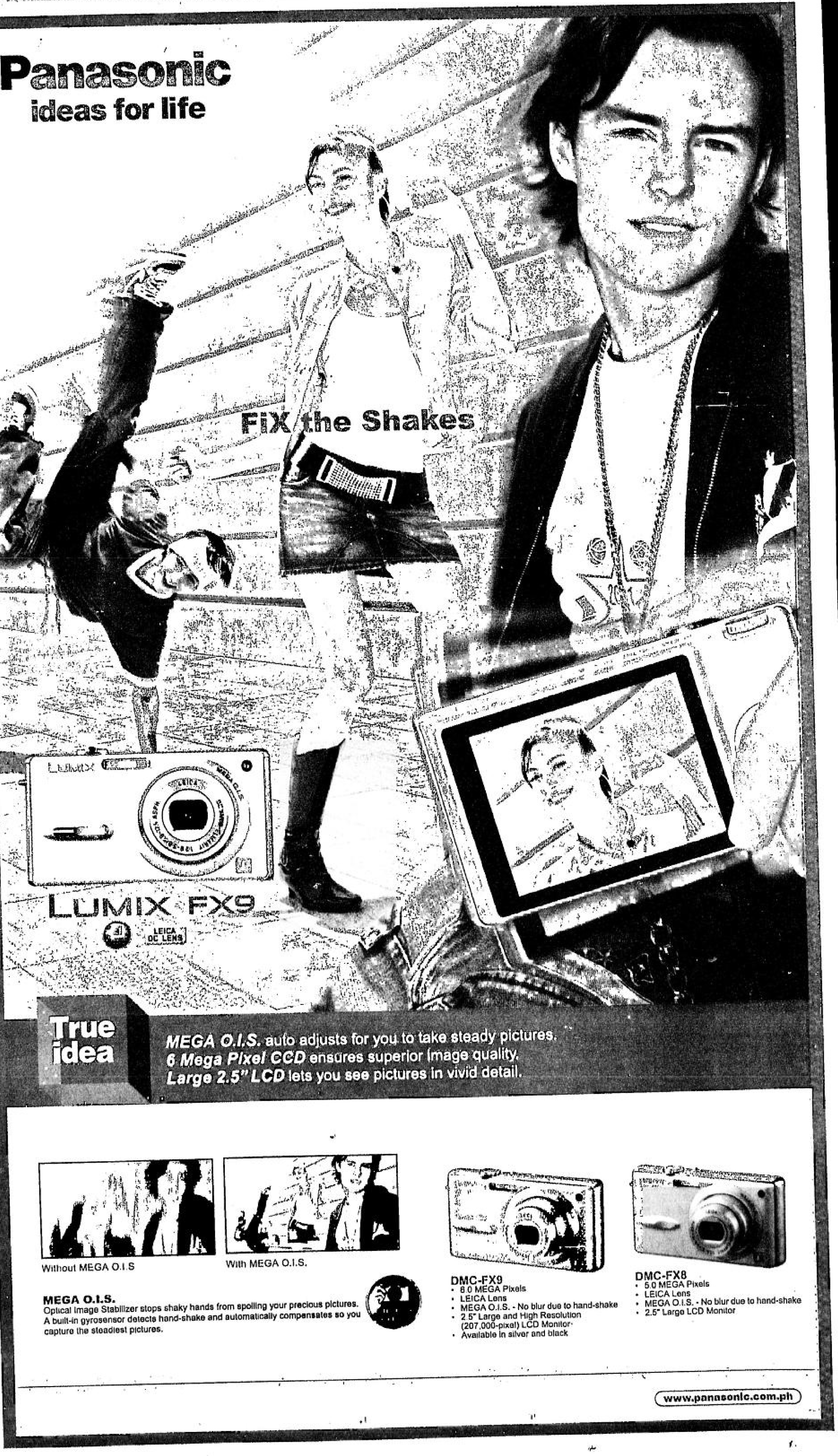

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# 'Come visit to breathe the air of freedom,' RP ...

From page A1

grounds, our blue skies and our shining seas."

"The forecast is for more sunny days ahead," he wrote, disputing the editorial's title.

The Times' comment on the Philippines was the lead editorial in yesterday's issue of its sister publication, the International Herald Tribune.

### GMA saved democracy

Contrary to the Times' views, "the President's swift and decisive action saved democracy in the Philippines," Baja argued, referring to Ms Arroyo's declaration of a state of emergency last February in the midst of an alleged attempt to unseat her.

"Filipinos continued to enjoy basic human rights and freedoms" after and even during the one-week state of emergency, added Baja, the country's permanent representative to the United Nations.

The Times editorial did not criticize the emergency rule per se, but mainly the government's subsequent "efforts to muzzle the press" with restrictive guidelines, a "journalistic watch list," and threats of sedition charges, pressures not applied by the state since the Marcos dictatorship.

The DFA said Baja had asked the paper "to look dispassionately" at the economic, social and political reforms being pursued by the Arroyo administration and "examine seriously the positive indicators" in the economy brought about by these reforms.

### Silence on issues raised

But Baja's letter was silent about the other issues raised by the Times: Its description of Ms Arroyo as "a one-time reformer [who] is reviving bad memories of crony corruption, presidential vote-rigging and intimidation of critical journalists."

In defense of the emergency rule, Baja said it "averted a possible violent overthrow of the government by an unholy alliance of communists, leftists and radical elements of the military who would have thrown the country into chaos and civil war.

"The press and civil society continue to be one of the most free and vibrant sectors of our society," he stressed.

As the DFA put it, Baja's letter asked the Times to "take a second look at the Philippines."

### Positive indicators

"Just examine seriously the following sample positive indicators as a result of her reforms: The Philippine peso has been a currency of strength for a number of weeks now; the growth rate is rising, and Philippine stocks are the best performing in the region," Baja told the paper.

The country is now "leading, together with India, in software design development, business process outsourcing and call centers," he said.

"Credit-rating agencies have improved their assessment of the Philippine economic outlook and conditions for rapid economic expansion and the momentum for growth are at hand as a result of the President's economic and social programs."

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the administration had taken moves to ensure that the Times would print the President's side of the story. He said that Philippine Ambassador to the United States Alberto del Rosario had been in touch with the Times editors.

### Opposition blamed

"If the paper is really fair, then they will print our side," Bunye said.

Bunye lamented that the Times editorial only showed that the "opposition's irresponsible political efforts are impacting international perceptions and overshadowing the great news being generated on the economic front."

He said contrary to the Times position, Ms Arroyo "worked steadfastly" to preserve democracy. He said that the "destabilization plot" in February "was mounted by those who chose to ignore democracy."

### Wake-up call

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said that the Times editorial was "a wake-up call that Gloria could not afford to ignore."

Senate President Franklin Drilon said the Times comment reflected the "displeasure" of the international community at Ms Arroyo, who is hounded by questions of legitimacy following allegations she stole the 2004 presidential election.

"It's significant that it's the repressive measures that were adopted in the [last] couple of months which was the subject of the editorial," Drilon said.

### US envoy's comment

But the new US Ambassador to the Philippines, Kristie Kenney, who paid a courtesy call on Drilon yesterday, downplayed the Times editorial.

"New York Times is a private news media and like all news media, we appreciate their opportunity to speak freely," Kenney said. *With reports from Christine O. Avendaño and TJ Burgonio*

# Cops hose down anti-Charter change demonstration

From page A1

"We had to do our job," Supt. Bernardo Diaz of the Manila Police District, one of the ground commanders, told reporters.

He said the protesters had failed to obtain a rally permit from the Manila city government.

### Organized dispersal

The protesters were pushed toward Recto Avenue and Morayta Street after a brief scuffle with police.

They decided to proceed to España Street in front of the University of Sto. Tomas and announced an organized dispersal before 3 p.m.

"We were able to express our sentiments against the administration, demand the immediate ouster of Arroyo and raise our fists against the implementation of Charter change," said Kilusang Mayo Uno spokesperson Presto Suyat.

"And we were able to reclaim Mendiola even if only for a few minutes," he said proudly.

Suyat said militant groups were preparing for more anti-Arroyo rallies in the coming weeks.

"We will not stop until she has vacated Malacañang," he said.

The activists gathered at the Sto. Domingo Church in Quezon City at about noon and marched toward Manila.

Waving banners and streamers, they declared vehement opposition to the people's initiative for Charter change, which the President had described as a "train that had left the station."

A huge streamer atop a truck that also served as a stage for the speakers depicted a dilapidated train, superimposed with an image of Ms Arroyo falling off a cliff.

Organizers estimated the crowd at 3,000, with hundreds more who had come from Central Luzon and Southern Tagalog.

In attendance were former Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr. and leaders of Bayan, KMU, Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas, Anakbayan, Gabriela, Bayan Muna and other militant organizations.

According to Guingona, the administration should allow those opposed to Charter change as much public space as it is allowing those pushing for the people's initiative.

**BANNED ENTRY:** "We're only doing our job," one of the police commanders explains the dispersal at Mendiola. No-permit no-rally, that's it, that's the order, the cops say.

REM ZAMORA

### Smokescreen

Bayan chair Carol Araullo said Charter change was "only a diversion, a smokescreen, that attempts to take the issue away from the question of Ms Arroyo's legitimacy."

Araullo said Charter change would effectively legitimize the Arroyo presidency, which has been under a cloud since the "Hello Garci" tapes suggesting election fraud in 2004 surfaced last year.

It can also prove to be a dangerous exercise in power, Araullo said, adding that the transitory provisions of the draft Charter would allow Ms Arroyo to retain her powers and wield more.

"[Under the proposal] Ms Arroyo is at the same time president and one who consolidates the powers of prime minister in her hands, which includes the power to dissolve parliament," Araullo said.

### No permit

From the Sto. Domingo Church, the protesters were met by a phalanx of riot police at the Mabuhay Rotunda.

A brief negotiation ensued, but police led by Senior Supt. Elmo San Diego stood firm about not allowing the protesters to proceed to Manila.

"The issue is whether you have a permit or not. Since you don't have one, I can't let you pass," San Diego told the protesters.

Bayan's Reyes said they had not bothered to apply for a permit from the Manila and Quezon City governments because they wanted to "test the law."

He also said the police's interpretation of the illegal assembly law was flawed.

A petition questioning the legality of the administration's CPR policy is pending in the Supreme Court. *With a report from Melissa de Quiros*

# Mike A to senators: It's you who should resign, not GMA

From page A1

*magtrabaho naman kayo* (You should start doing your jobs)," the First Gentleman said through his spokesperson Jess Santos.

The President's husband was referring to Senate President Franklin Drilon, Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel and Senators Panfilo Lacson, Jinggoy Estrada and Jamby Madrigal who spearheaded the "Gloria Resign Movement" on the President's 59th birthday on April 5.

"Before they grandstand in media and continue squandering taxpayers' money, as well as the time and resources of the Senate, GMA Resign leaders should show first what they have done for the people," the First Gentleman said.

He said "what the people need to know is what they have done as senators, not their personal agenda to grab power."

The First Gentleman cited the Indexing and Monitoring Section of the Senate, which showed that Drilon (33 bills and 12 resolutions), Pimentel (62 bills and 27 resolutions), Lacson (26 bills and 5 resolutions) and Madrigal (17 bills and 39 resolutions) authored a total of 221 bills and resolutions, just 7 percent of the 3,451 bills and resolutions filed in the Senate as of March 29.

The President's husband made special mention of Estrada, who recently claimed that the former had links to big-time smugglers and that he had brokered a contract between the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. and a favored businessman.

### No shred of evidence

He said Estrada had admitted to having no shred of evidence to prove his allegations and that even "the senator's father (deposed President Joseph Estrada) proved he (Jinggoy) was lying."

Speaker Jose de Venecia reminded the "Senate 5" that the President, like the senators, had a fixed term under the Constitution.

He said the Senate 5's call was not proper. "Suppose a group of Filipinos asks for the same thing against the senators, how will they feel?" the Speaker said.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye noted that Drilon and his faction in the Liberal Party made a similar call last year but failed to get the people's support.

### Doomed to fail

Allies of Ms Arroyo in the House of Representatives challenged opposition leaders in the Senate to choose someone who could stand up to her instead of reviving a resign movement that "miserably" failed to force her out of office last year.

House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles told reporters that any opposition attempt to unseat the President was "doomed to fail" because they could not even agree on a leader.

"None of them can win in a one-on-one fight against Ms Arroyo for president. They can offer no viable alternative to replace GMA. They want a junta of the left, the center and the right. Forget it. Let's stick to as is where is," said the lawmaker from Davao City.

He said the Senate train was headed for a cliff, stressing that the planned road show of senators during their Lenten break to drum up support for the "Gloria Resign Movement" was "doomed to fail."

Deputy Speaker for Mindanao Gerry Salapuddin said the launching of the movement was a "desperate move [but] this was unsurprising."

Salapuddin called Pimentel et al. "prophets of doom" and said they "are themselves doomed to fail."

"Resignation is a dead issue. The President is determined to stay and finish her term. There is no reason for her to resign when her vision for the country is finally starting to materialize," said the lawmaker from the lone district of Basilan.

### Protracted struggle

Senators mounting the "Gloria Resign Movement" are bracing for a tough road show across the country to force Ms Arroyo to step down, Pimentel said yesterday.

"As far as a timeline is concerned, we are geared for a protracted political struggle here. We do not envision this thing to be resolved after the Holy Week. That's not the case here," Pimentel said at a briefing.

"Knowing Gloria's penchant for hanging on to power at every cost, we are determined to do that," he said.

Pimentel said that most of his colleagues in the 23-member chamber had committed to take part in the activities of the movement, although some of them did not show up at the launch.

### Palace finds ally

In a statement, Sen. Edgardo Angara lamented that Philippine politics had turned divisive and distracting.

He noted that in other countries, where "politics is a passion," political leaders strove to at least find a common ground for compromise.

"I don't see that here, and that's why we have an impoverished state of mind and body. We can't or won't rise above partisan politics," he said. *Reports from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., Cynthia D. Balana, Michael Lim Ubac and TJ Burgonio*

# 2 new species–parrot, mouse–found in Camiguin

From page A1

But Camiguin's wildlife is at risk from deforestation, warned researchers, writing in the April 5 issue "Fieldiana: Zoology," a peer-reviewed, scientific journal about biodiversity research published by the Chicago-based Field Museum of Natural History.

"Knowing that at least 54 species of birds and at least 24 species of mammals live on Camiguin and that some of these animals are found nowhere else on earth, makes us realize how important this island is," said Lawrence Heaney, curator of mammals at the Field Museum and coauthor of several of the reports in the publication.

"For these animals to survive, we've got to save the dwindling forests where they live," he said in a press release issued by the museum.

### Severely deforested

Blas Tabaranza Jr., director of the Terrestrial Ecosystems Project of the Haribon Foundation in Manila, said the Philippines was increasingly recognized as a global center for biodiversity, with exceptionally high levels of endemism or the state of being restricted to or peculiar to a locality or region.

"Unfortunately, the Philippines has also vaulted into notoriety as one of the most severely deforested tropical countries in the world," Tabaranza, a coauthor of several of the Fieldiana reports, sai in the press release.

The Philippines hosts a wealth of endemic flora and fauna but more than 70 percent of its original forests have been destroyed.

Camiguin was once almost entirely covered by rain forest but by 2001, logging, agriculture and human settlement had reduced the forest cover to only 18 percent. Half of the island, a popular diving destination, is covered with coconut plantations.

### Conservation priority

The scientists have declared Camiguin's rain forest to be a key global conservation priority. Efforts to protect the remaining rain forest in which these animals live as a national park have been under way for several years, in collaboration between The Field Museum, Haribon Foundation, the local government and the Philippine Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

The two new species were discovered as the result of recent and earlier field studies.

The new species of parrot was known to locals because of its value in the pet trade. The bird's throat and thighs are bright blue and the top of its head and tail are brilliant scarlet-orange.

Males and females have identical plumage, which is quite unusual in this group of parrot.

The description is based on previously unstudied specimens in The Field Museum and the Delaware Museum of Natural History collected in the 1960s by D.S. Rabor. The name for the new species is *Loriculus camiguinensis*, or Camiguin Hanging-parrot.

### Distinctive

"This description is based on a series of specimens that had been part of The Field Museum's collections for almost 40 years, so our work highlights the value of collecting and preserving scientific specimens, because you may not initially realize the significance of specimens," said John Bates, curator of birds and chair of zoology at The Field Museum, and a coauthor of one of the Fieldiana reports.

"If we did not have a series of specimens from Camiguin and additional series of Hanging-parrots from other Philippine islands, we probably would have assumed that the single bird that prompted our investigation was just odd-looking, and we would not have been able to recognize it as distinctive," Bates said.

### Overlooked

One of *L. camiguinensis*' characteristics that was key to identifying it as a new species is the fact that its plumage is relatively dull compared to other Philippine hanging-parrots.

This is consistent with the documented tendency of some isolated bird populations to lose their bright plumage, the authors noted.

Because *L. camiguinensis* has not been recognized as a separate species, little is known about its habits, and it has been overlooked in terms of conservation. The discovery has spurred interest in the field studies needed to establish the population size and requirements as a prerequisite for conservation planning and action.

After learning about the Fieldiana manuscript, Thomas Arndt, a German parrot enthusiast, made a trip to Camiguin to look for these birds. He photographed the parrots and was preparing a publication about his findings.

### New even to locale

The mouse, discovered high on the steep slopes of one of the island's volcanoes, was new to locals.

The rusty-brown rodent, known as *Apomys camiguinensis*, has large eyes and ears and feeds mostly on insects and seeds.

The description is based on mice captured on Camiguin during a biological survey Heaney and Tabaranza conducted in 1994 and 1995.

In 2002, Heaney, Tabaranza and Eric Rickart, of the Utah Museum of Natural History, described a different species of forest-living rodent, *Bullimus gamay*, from Mt. Timpoong, the same mountain where the new mouse was collected.

A frog *(Oreophryne nana)* named in 1967 had been thought to be the only vertebrate restricted to the island prior to the surveys by Heaney and Tabaranza.

### Deserves int'l attention

"Very few states in the United States, and few countries in Europe, have four endemic species of vertebrates, making it clear why tiny Camiguin Island is deserving of international attention," Heaney said.

"And it is almost certain that other organisms in Camiguin are also endemic; they just have not been studied yet."

Camiguin is only 265 square kilometers. It has been continuously isolated from its neighbors, even during the Ice Age of the Pleistocene, when sea levels dropped 120 meters below present levels. This isolation contributed to the differentiation of the island's animals. *With a report from Reuters*

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# Don't rely on OFW remittances, ADB tells RP

From page A1

"stubbornly high," although to some degree was eased by the exodus of workers overseas.

"Although generating subsequent remittance income, emigration on this scale comes at a high cost in terms of loss of knowledge and skills, and can have high social costs as well," the ADB said.

Citing a "marginal" scope for fiscal or monetary maneuvering to support demand and growth, the ADB said there was little prospect of growth accelerating significantly this year and next year.

Immediate prospects for agriculture, which accounted for 19 percent of GDP, were described as "uncertain" on concerns that the La Niña weather phenomenon, which brings torrential rains, could reduce crop production this year. But a modest rebound in agriculture was assumed for 2007.

"The food and beverage subsector of manufactures would also be affected, as prices of raw materials rise in 2006 and subside in 2007," the ADB said.

The ADB projected that export-oriented manufacturers would be bolstered by expected modest gains this year in global trade volumes.

The services sector, with the largest share of GDP at 48 percent, was seen to maintain its high growth of 6 to 6.3 percent, with the transport and telecommunications subsector leading growth on the back of market expansion in medium-sized cities and areas of economic expansion outside Metro Manila.

"On the demand side, weakness in investment and exports is expected to be the theme in 2006, but they should pick up in 2007," the ADB said.

Gross fixed capital formation was forecast to rise by 3.5 percent this year and 7 percent in 2007, mostly from increases in private investment and higher public investment in infrastructure.

## Agriculture

"The key risks to the immediate outlook include the intensity of La Niña rainfall, which could reduce agricultural production and have spillover effects on the food and beverage subsector," the ADB said.

But slippages in the implementation of core reforms, in particular tax administration and power sector reforms, could erode the credibility of the government, the ADB warned.

"Finally, political uncertainty has yet to completely subside, and this has the potential to undermine growth prospects over any time scale," it said.

From 2008 to 2010, the ADB projected that Philippine GDP growth would still likely be locked within the 5 to 6 percent range.

## Medium-term forecasts

The bank's baseline forecasts for growth over the medium term were way below the government's official Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan (MTPDP) target rates up to 2010.

To achieve the high targets under the MTPDP, the ADB said the country's capital stock needs to expand by at least 10 percent a year in net terms versus an estimated 3 percent in recent years.

"Lifting the capital stock would require an extended investment push that creates a virtuous cycle of higher rates of productivity, wages and labor absorption. To invigorate investment, momentum must build behind reforms," the ADB said.

"Although the reform agenda is long and potentially complex, demonstrated successes in a few key areas could help shift perceptions and build a consensus behind the need for a determined reform effort over the medium term," it said.

From the supply side, the contributions of the three sectors—agriculture, industry and services—are expected to change little and thus services will remain the largest contributor to growth, it added.

The ADB stressed that further gains in fiscal consolidation, especially demonstration of sustained results in tax administration, would help build credibility and provide the basis for strengthening macroeconomic stability.

Its growth forecasts assumed that further progress shall be made in power sector reforms, especially privatization, thus helping to strengthen the investment climate and support a more positive outlook for the medium term.

"However, gains in investor confidence from progress in reforms could be partially offset by sporadic political turbulence," it said.

## Regional outlook

Developing Asian economies, the ADB said, will sustain a strong growth in 2006 supported by a broadly favorable outlook for the international economy, the continuing trend toward improved economic management, and apparent resilience to high oil prices.

The ADB projected that the region would achieve an overall economic expansion of 7.2 percent in 2006 and 7 percent in 2007, a marginal easing from 7.4 percent in 2005. But it said the outlook could worsen due to bird flu fears and high oil prices.

Ifzal Ali, ADB chief economist, said: "Asian economies will take strength from the continuing upswing in the global electronics sector and fast growth expected in the People's Republic of China and India."

## 3 key economies

Growth projections for developing Asia as a region are heavily influenced by three key economies: PRC, India and Republic of Korea. Together, these economies have a combined weight of 66 percent of regional income.

ADO 2006 provides an assessment of recent economic performance for 43 developing member countries, and projections for major macroeconomic indicators for 2006 and 2007.

The ADB said the economies of China and India are forecast to expand this year at 9.5 percent and 7.6 percent, respectively. The September forecast for China's economic growth this year was 8.8 percent, while that for India was 6.8 percent.

Forecast growth for Southeast Asia was raised to 5.5 percent from September's 5.4 percent. The outlook for most Southeast Asian economies, except Laos and Thailand, has been upgraded.

The ADB said growth in developing Asia will largely be fueled by an expansion in major industrial economies that are forecast to grow close to their potential this year, and an increase in global trade.

Increasing demand for electronics also will provide a boost to the region's economy, the bank said.

"The upswing in the global electronics cycle, which began in 2005, should continue through most of 2006, supporting growth in a number of regional economies, in East Asia and Southeast Asia specially," the report said.

## Economic shock

While most economies managed to insulate consumers last year from higher oil prices through subsidies, the ADB said that the effects of the higher prices will likely trickle down to consumers this year.

As a result, the ADB has raised its inflation forecast for the region this year to 4 percent from the September estimate of 3.3 percent. Softer inflation of 3.7 percent is forecast for 2007.

The bank said efforts by China and Malaysia last year toward greater currency flexibility had resulted in only the small appreciation of the US dollar, and the continued investment inflows and current account surplus might continue to boost regional currencies this year.

The ADB also said estimates suggest that a bird flu pandemic would result in severe economic shock, which would cost the Asia and Pacific region between US$100 billion (euro81.5 billion) and US$300 billion (euro244 billion).

"At its worst, this would essentially halve economic growth for one year and throw the world into an economic recession, the first global recession since 1982," it said.

# Comelec official finds 'ghost' signatories …

From page A1

office had yet to receive reports on the progress of the verification process.

"Once verification is completed, the signatures are returned to the proponents so that they will see if the requirement [on the number of registered voters that need to sign it] had been complied with. After that, our mandate is finished," he said.

Asked about the alleged spurious signatures, Jimenez said that based on Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr.'s instructions, "these will be discarded and not included in the final list of authenticated signatures."

Jimenez said that if the Comelec would be allowed to entertain the petition, it would strictly implement the constitutional requirement that the initiative be signed by 12 percent of registered voters nationwide, with at least 3 percent of voters representing each congressional district.

"If the signatures are insufficient, it would be difficult for the petition to succeed, as the Constitution states," he said.

## 8.3M and counting

According to Speaker Jose de Venecia, the number of signatures has reached 8.3 million, or 60 percent in excess of the minimum requirement.

Speaking with reporters at the 18th birthday celebration of his late daughter KC, De Venecia expressed confidence that the number would reach the nine-million mark in two weeks.

"I think we can easily reach nine million, or even 10 million, before the Holy Week. Now it's already 8.3 million and they're still gathering signatures. So I believe that really, the tide has turned and more are signing," he said.

De Venecia said some of the largest and most prestigious organizations, as well as party-list groups, had joined the campaign to collect signatures.

"These are genuine, bona fide," he said. "I will not use the words 'tidal wave' because that's too much, but a powerful force of public opinion at the grass-roots speaking to our mobilizing village democracy all over the Philippines," he said.

De Venecia also said simultaneous verification of the signatures were being done by election registrars and barangay captains.

He said a parallel move toward Charter change was also being done in the House through a resolution signed by at least 180 congressmen calling for transforming the two chambers of Congress into a constituent assembly.

He said that while the number was 15 congressmen short, the required number would be met before June.

But Vice President Noli de Castro cautioned the proponents of the people's initiative against subverting the true will of the people.

"If what we need is change in the form of government, so be it. Let that change proceed in a manner that is consistent with the will of our people," De Castro said.

## Mabini's presence

The Movement of Attorneys for Brotherhood, Integrity and Nationalism Inc. (Mabini) chaired by former Sen. Rene Saguisag served notice that the verification of signatures would have to be subjected to its scrutiny.

"We are requesting you to inform us if you would still conduct the verification process. Should you intend to do so, we are registering our right to be present during the entire proceedings. We request that we be formally notified of the scheduled verification by furnishing us the date, time and place thereof," Mabini member Rodrigo Melchor said in a letter to the Comelec.

Melchor said the issue of the legality of the ongoing campaign for a people's initiative to amend the Constitution was anchored on the absence of an enabling law, among other things.

"Thus, it is premature for the Comelec to conduct such a verification," he said.

Manila Vice Mayor Danny Lacuna, for his part, said he would be present to check the authenticity of the signatures should the local election officers proceed with the verification.

He said that in his barangay, he learned that only five out of around 800 registered voters had signed.

"Nothing is wrong with our system of government. The Filipinos would want to directly vote for their leaders," Lacuna told reporters.

## Which rule to follow

Despite De Venecia's earlier statement that verification would be completed by April 15, the Manila Comelec officers have yet to begin the process.

Rosalinda Albia Radin, election officer of Manila's second district, said they could not start verifying the 155,123 signatures turned over to them last week by the Manila city government in the absence of a directive from their superiors.

"We're in a dilemma right now. We're still awaiting a directive from our main office. We need a guideline so that the procedure in verifying the signatures is uniform and, at the same time, to make sure that what we're doing is right," she told the INQUIRER.

Radin claimed that she and the other officers were caught between performing their administrative duties and the possibility of facing contempt charges should they proceed.

She said that while the Supreme Court ruled in 1997 that the Initiative and Referendum Act (Republic Act No. 6735) was not sufficient to cover a people's initiative to effect Charter change, there was a memo from the Comelec law department saying that local election officers had to prepare the forms for the people's initiative, provide the statistics needed for the process, establish signing stations and verify the signatures of voters who signed the petition.

"We don't know which rule to follow. We have the administrative functions to verify signatures because it is in our job description to perform duties given to us from time to time. But [we also worry] that we might be cited for contempt," she said.

Radin, however, was quick to add that her expression of concern over the issue was not meant to question the authority of the Comelec.

"We follow the chain of command; we're not opposing the Comelec. We just want to raise our concerns," she said.

## No respect for law

As though to validate Radin's fears, Cavite Rep. Gilbert Remulla said the opposition would ask the Supreme Court to cite the Comelec in contempt for deciding to verify the signatures.

"The administration, or whoever is pushing for Charter change, clearly has no respect for the law … and [for] the Supreme Court," Remulla said in Tacloban City, where he was to speak before members of the Vice Mayors League of the Philippines (Eastern Visayas chapter).

He said that in the next few days, the opposition would be taking other steps to stop the Comelec and derail Charter change proponents from achieving a shift in the form of government via a people's initiative.

He said they would begin an investigation of Sigaw ng Bayan, the multisectoral coalition spearheading the signature campaign.

## Roadblocks

"[President Arroyo] said her Cha-cha train has started moving. We will [install] several roadblocks—whether legal or civic action—that could … halt the train," Remulla said in a press conference at the Hotel Alejandro.

But Romulo Macalintal, the President's counsel for election matters, defended the Comelec's right to initiate the verification process.

He said that just because the Supreme Court ruled that RA 6735 was inadequate it did not mean that the law could not be implemented.

"It was not declared unconstitutional, so it remained valid. Also, the Supreme Court ruled [in a separate case] that the legislature 'is by force of circumstances primarily the judge of adequacy of any law,'" Macalintal said. *With a report from Joey A. Gabieta, PDI Visayas Bureau*

## *GMA: We are on the right side of history*

**By Christine O. Avendaño**

STEPPING UP HER CALL FOR CHARTER change, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday vowed that the constitutional reforms being pushed by her administration would "work"—with the help of the people.

"We are on the right side of history, in working with the people to take back government," the President said at the opening ceremonies of an investment summit in Calapan, Oriental Mindoro.

In a speech before investors at the Filipiniana Resort Hotel, she marvelled at the "political stability" of Mindoro and said investors were sending an "important message" to the rest of the country.

"Stop the politics. It is getting in the way of development," she said, adding:

"With the help of the people, we will tackle constitutional reforms and it will work."

Ms Arroyo said the world was "watching and viewing our political system and wondering if we have the will to succeed."

"We need a sweeping reform of our politics and governance, if we have to break into First World status in 20 years," she said.

She called on the people to unite in moving the nation forward, "rather than jamming the gears of the nation in reverse."

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# Worms infect 6 of 10 food handlers, studies say

**By Christian V. Esguerra**

EATING OUT? THINK TWICE BEfore indulging in the food being served.

Six out of 10 food attendants in school canteens, hospitals, mall food outlets and other eateries in Metro Manila and Metro Cebu are infected with intestinal worms, studies of the University of the Philippines' National Institutes for Health (NIH) have found.

"This is perhaps the most widespread health problem in the contemporary world because everybody eats," Dr. Vicente Belizario, the research agency's deputy director, said in a press conference yesterday.

Helminths (hookworms, roundworms and whipworms) and small, single-celled parasites called protozoans could be easily spread from food handlers to consumers without proper sanitation and public consciousness of the danger, he said.

They are the common causes of diarrhea and malnutrition, Belizario said. In worse cases, they infect not only the intestines but also the liver, gall bladder, lungs and the brain, he said.

Belizario disclosed findings of three separate studies of personnel handling food. The first, conducted in 2002, involved food attendants in 123 school canteens, while the other studies were undertaken last year, covered canteen employees in nearly 100 hospitals, and 138 food attendants in malls.

## 3 studies

The results showed no big difference between eating at a lowly, roadside eatery or a classy restaurant.

One case study shown to reporters yesterday showed the video footage of a woman food attendant at a Quezon City "*carinderia*" (small roadside eatery) using the same rag to dry newly washed plates and tables.

She was also holding the rag while serving food, the documentary showed.

An elegant bistro in Makati City boasts of well-trained waiters, but the danger of worm infection still lurks, according to another case report.

The waiter was shown using the same dirty rag to wipe the table and, later, the food tray. He rinsed it only afterward.

## Health permits

A discomforting note in both cases was the manner through which both food attendants secured health permits from their respective local governments.

Belizario said most of the people applying for permits were often tested for worm infection only through the non-intensive direct fecal smear (DFS) procedure.

The DFS, for instance, found only 6.5 percent of food handlers in canteens in Metro Manila as infected with intestinal parasites. A subsequent test using the more sensitive concentration technique recorded 13.8 percent, according to the expert.

Another study presented by Belizario involved dietary service workers in a tertiary hospital in Metro Manila. It discovered an infection rate of 42.4 percent.

A tertiary hospital is defined as fully departmentalized and equipped with service capabilities to support medical specialists and other licensed physicians rendering services in medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology and surgery, as well as subspecialties and ancillary services.

Another case study showed a 38.3-percent infection rate among mall employees involved in food preparation in Metro Cebu.

Faced with the alarming reports and the prospect of even more infection, the Department of Health has come up with a new order requiring stringent guidelines for the "parasitologic" screening of food handlers.

The administrative order, issued on Jan. 10, adopts the Formalin Ether/Ethyl Acetate Concentration Technique as the "procedure of choice for stool examination by the local health units."

The FECT is a more intensive procedure compared with the more popular and widely used DFS.

The order also requires food handlers to be examined at least once a year.

"It's not acceptable to have worms in this day and age," Belizario said.

# Stop text ads, Pimentel tells Smart, Globe

**By TJ Burgonio**

TELECOM FIRMS SMART COMMUNICAtions and Globe Telecoms should stop the practice of sending unsolicited text ads that eat up the mobile phone load of "text-crazy" Filipinos, according to Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr.

Pimentel pressed the Senate to inquire into the matter and convince the network providers to stop violating the law "if indeed there is a law against unsolicited advertisements."

The issue, against which the senator has taken to the floor twice, was referred to the committee on public services.

"The issue is of service to the people who spend their hard-earned money on loads," Pimentel said.

He said he himself was a recipient of such texts and had been inundated with "hundreds of complaints" from other users, including his driver.

"Cell phone subscribers have been complaining that their prepaid credits are being diminished every time they receive such advertisements which they never asked for in the first place," he said.

"Play it fair," he told the two giant service providers which he said should immediately cease sending such messages when requested by the subscriber.

In a March 21 letter to Pimentel, Rogelio Quevedo, group head of Smart's wholesale business, explained that the company does not charge subscribers for the initial and first info text and network advisories.

"However, when a subscriber thereafter activates the info text and network advisories by sending an 'alert on' message to the network, fees are thus imposed on such 'alert on' messages," he said.

Pimentel recalled that his driver bought a load one night but could not use it the following day because this had been "consumed by advertisements," and wondered how he could be charged for such unwanted texts.

In his own case, the senator said that last Dec. 12 he received a flash message from 2150 informing him about a new multi-media which he could log on to.

When he requested that the message be stopped, he got this reply from 288: "Thanks for the message. You won't receive any more updates from zed. If you change your mind, just send word IN to 288 to hear about new and cool stuff:: zed."

But the very same day, he got a message from 288 saying that the "Instant Panaload promo" had already ended and another message informing him that he could text STOP to 288 if he wanted a stop to promo messages.

However, the inconvenience to the subscriber does not end there because the network provider uses two different numbers when sending a text ad, and replying to text messages from subscribers, according to Pimentel.

When he tried replying to a text ad from 288, he got this message: "You have entered an invalid keyword! Below are the list of help keywords - TWIST IT; RADIO CLUB; JAM LIST; KLITE LIST; MAGIC LIST; RT LIST; WEB LIST. To get more info, txt the keywords above and snd it to 2986."

In short, the network provider makes it difficult for their subscribers "to immediately stop the receipt of unwanted messages," the senator said.

Pimentel demanded that the providers give their subscribers a chance to respond to text ads through the same number that these are sent.

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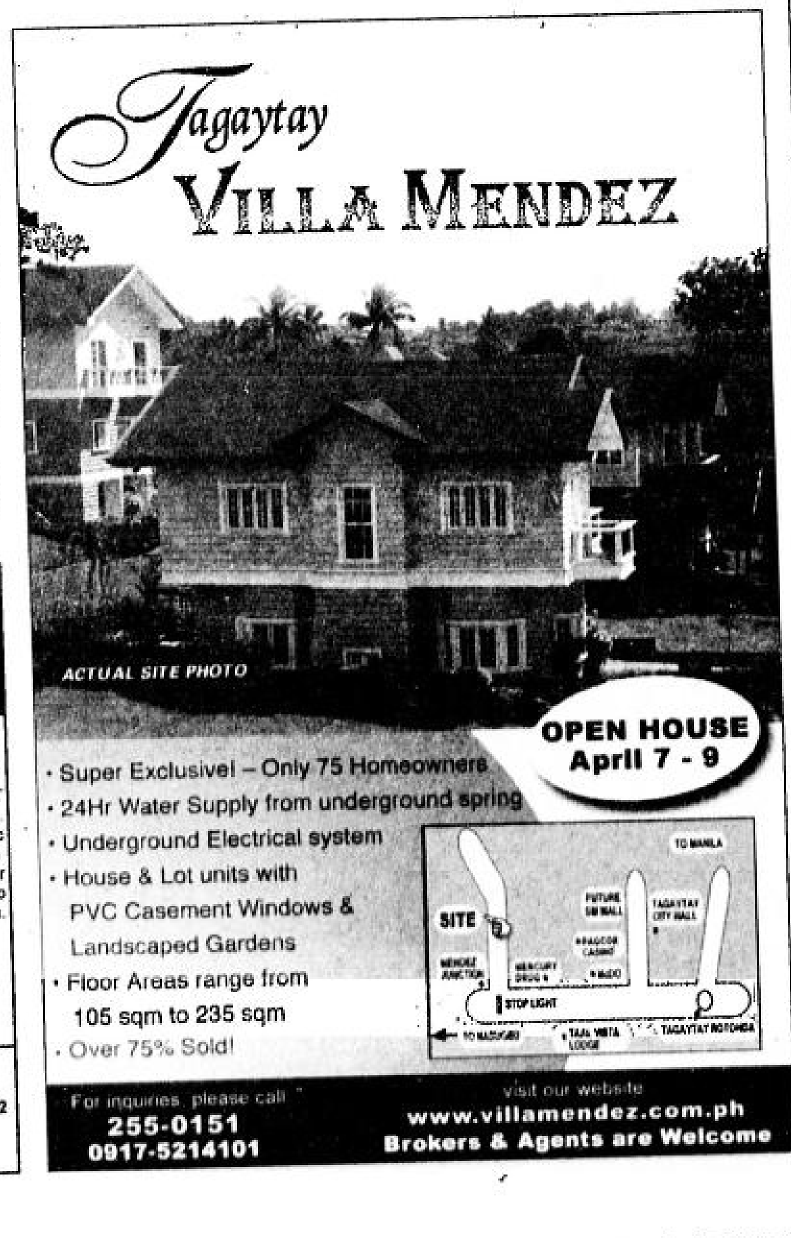

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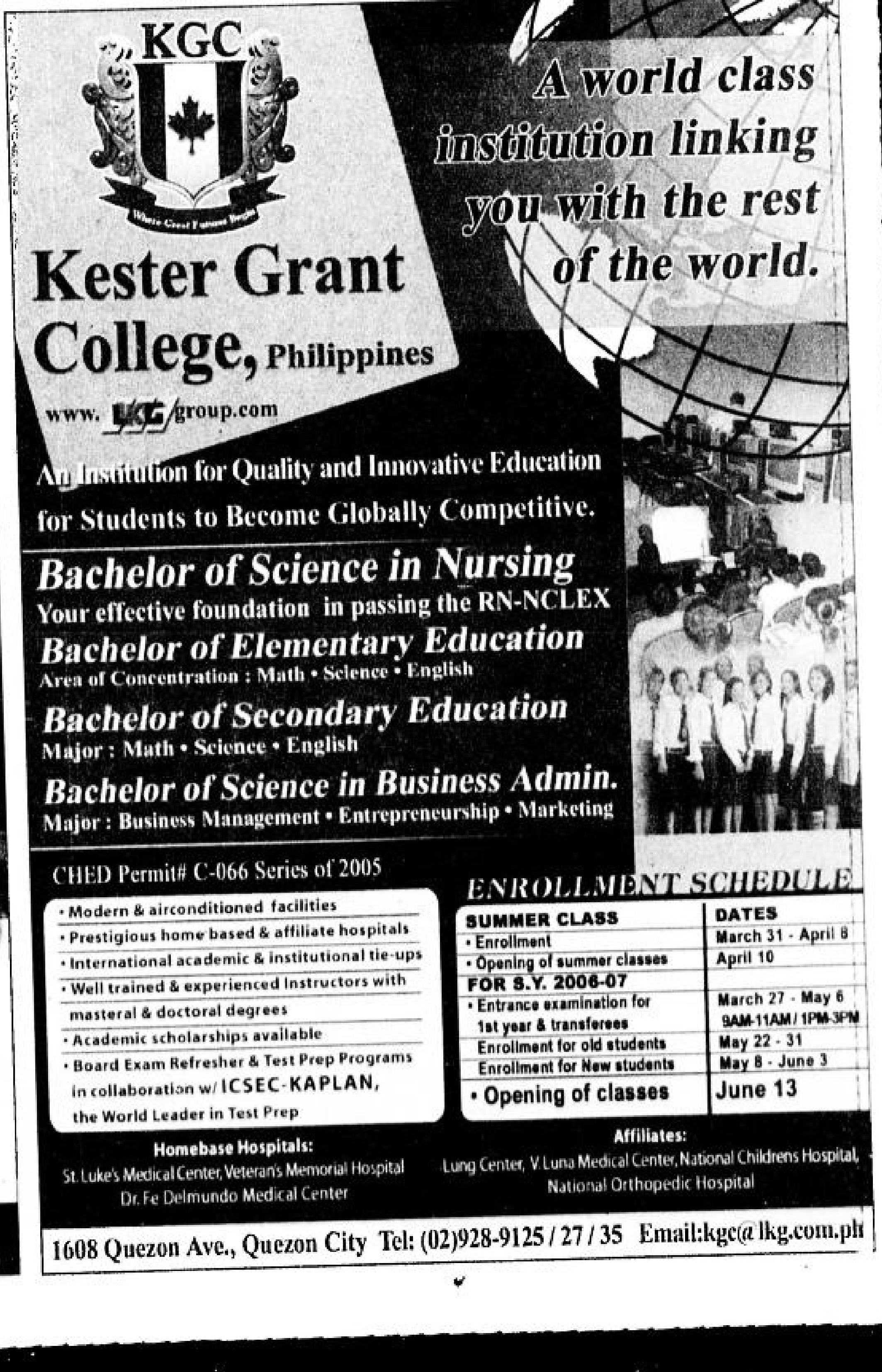

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# 'Indie' retailers cut LPG prices by ₱1.50/kg

COOKING GAS JUST BECAME more affordable to more households after independent vendors cut their prices by P1.50 a kilo, or P16.50 per 11-kg cylinder, effective midnight last night.

Arnel Ty, president of the LPG Marketers Association (LPGMA), said this was part of the group's effort to allow more consumers to benefit from the price downtrend of liquefied petroleum gas in the international market.

The LGPMA's move followed price cuts made by the major oil players of P1.68 per kilo last week.

Last Friday, Petron, Chevron Philippines, Total Philippines and Pilipinas Shell Petroleum lowered the prices of their Gasul, Caltex LPG, Totalgaz and Shellane, respectively, by P18.50 for an 11-kg tank.

LPGMA comprises refillers and retailers that carry their own brands like Nation Gas and M-Gas.

The latest round of price cuts brought total reductions to P5.04 a kilo, or P55.50 per 11-kg cylinder, since prices began going down worldwide.

According to the Department of Energy, 11-kg cylinders now cost between P448 and P501.50, especially in Metro Manila.

The DOE said international contract prices for LPG have been steadily going down from a record high of $625.50 a ton in February as winter in the northern hemisphere winds down.

Contract prices went down to $428 a ton this month, a record drop of $102 a ton from $530 in March. *Ronnel W. Domingo*

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**RP-JAPAN TIES**
Foreign Secretary Alberto G. Romulo calls on Japan Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi at the Office of the Prime Minister in Tokyo, where Romulo extended to the Prime Minister an invitation to visit the Philippines in July on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the reestablishment of diplomatic relations between the Philippines and Japan.

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## Ex-mayor charged in Quezon logging

AN EX-MAYOR AND municipal administrator of General Nakar town in Quezon have been charged with 221 counts of usurpation of authority in connection with illegal logging operations in the province.

Ombudsman prosecutors filed the charges before the Sandiganbayan antigraft court on Tuesday against Leovegildo R. Ruzol, General Nakar's ex-mayor and Fuillermo M. Sabiduria, the town's former administrator, following an investigation of a complaint.

The complainant, Walternito G. Palasan, alleged that Ruzul and Sabiduria had issued spurious permits to transport illegally cut logs from protected ecological areas and government lands.

Palasan, who has been placed under the witness protection program because of threats on his life, also named two Calabarzon environment officials—forester Federico Ocampo and former executive director Primitivo Galinato Jr.—and 11 private individuals as having conspired with the two accused in the illegal logging operations.

Palasan said illegal loggers and timber smugglers were issued the fraudulent transport permits from 2001 to 2004.

Ombudsman Merceditas N. Gutierrez approved the resolution recommending the indictments against Ruzol and Sabiduria on March 13.

She also ordered the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to launch an investigation to determine the involvement of the regional environment officials in the case.

In their joint counter-affidavit, Ruzol and Sabiduria claimed the issuance of the permits were well within their authority and function under the New Local Government Code. *Nelson F. Flores*

## BACK TO OLD POSTS

# Customs, DOF rethink revamp

**By Leila B. Salaverria**

TWO RESHUFFLES AT THE BUreau of Customs—that were to take effect two weeks ago—have been held in abeyance by BOC Commissioner Napoleon Morales and Finance Secretary Margarito Teves.

The reassignment of over 20 district collectors and other officials would be "reevaluated," said BOC officer in charge Alexander Arevalo yesterday.

The developments have not adversely affected customs operations, added Arevalo, who was named OIC when Morales flew to China earlier this week to attend the World Customs Organization general assembly.

### Directive

Arevalo said Morales had ordered him last Friday to direct all the reshuffled officials to return to their former posts. On Monday, Teves issued a similar directive.

The finance secretary signs off on all movements of customs personnel who are presidential appointees.

"The reshuffle has been held in abeyance," said Arevalo in a phone interview. "The secretary deemed it fitting to reevaluate the revamp given the concerns raised."

The first reshuffle was to take place in the last week of March and affect five officials. The second revamp affecting 20 officials was to take place the following week.

One of the affected officials in the first reshuffle, collector Carlos So of the Manila International Container Port (MICP), did not immediately vacate his office after he was transferred to the Office of the Commissioner.

Arevalo said So was still winding up his affairs but he was ready to turn the MICP over to his replacement, Adelina Molina of the Batangas Port, to honor a "gentleman's agreement" with her. The turnover was preempted, however, by the order halting the reshuffle.

### No signature

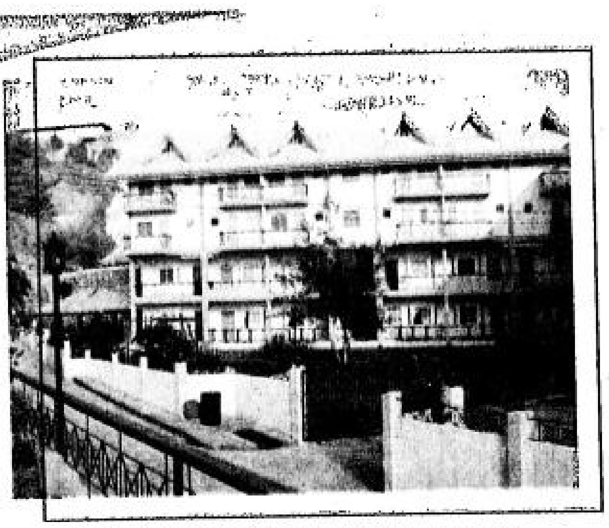
Port of Cebu collector Lourdes Mangaoang, who was affected by the second reshuffle, had questioned the order transferring her to Iloilo, saying it had not been signed by Teves. Customs brokers, businessmen and local officials also protested her reassignment.

Despite the developments, Arevalo said, operations at the bureau were not suffering.

"Even if we go back to the old setup in mid-March, the bureau then already had surplus savings. So we are still in a good position," he said.

He said the bureau would not be bogged down since systems and procedures were in place.

"We are an organization of over 5,000 people. The movement of 20 or so would not stop our operations," he said.



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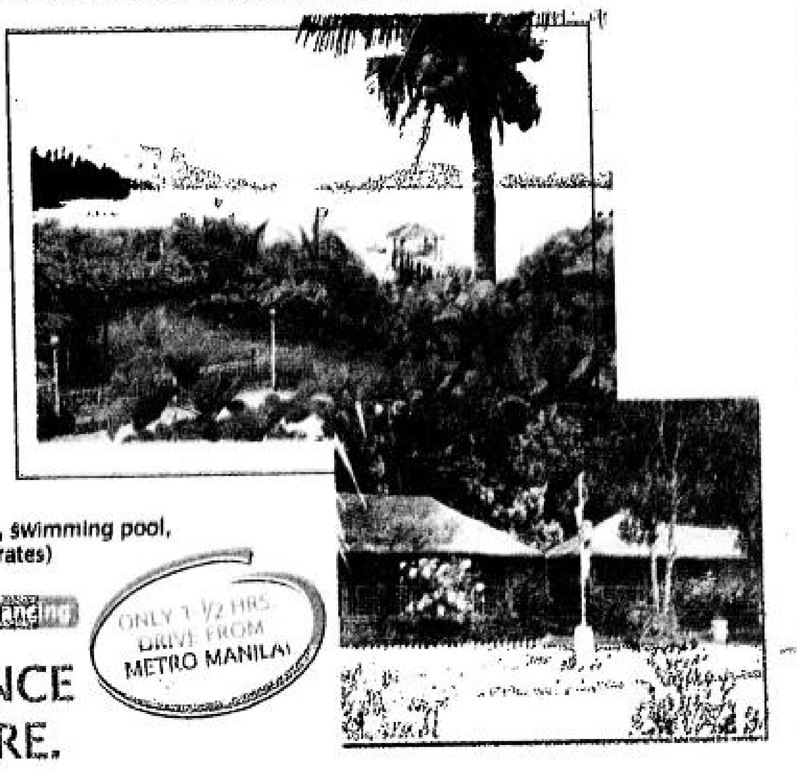

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# OPINION

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# Democracy redefined

**EDITORIAL**

IN ONE FELL SWOOP, THAI PRIME MINISTER Thaksin Shinawatra accomplished three things by declining to form a new government. First, he preserved his party's majority and ensured that it remains the dominant political player in Thai politics. Second, he kept himself as a major political player and a potential comeback kid, while demonstrating a sense of responsibility by defusing a crisis that was spiraling out control. Third, his personal assets remain intact, his wealth untouched and the burden of political accountability has now shifted to the opposition minority. The minority now faces the problem of having a Thai parliament where Thaksin's party has an overwhelming superiority, a majority that won't be weakened even if the opposition were to win the 38 seats that remain unfilled.

So what, in the end, did Thaksin's fall from grace achieve? Several important things.

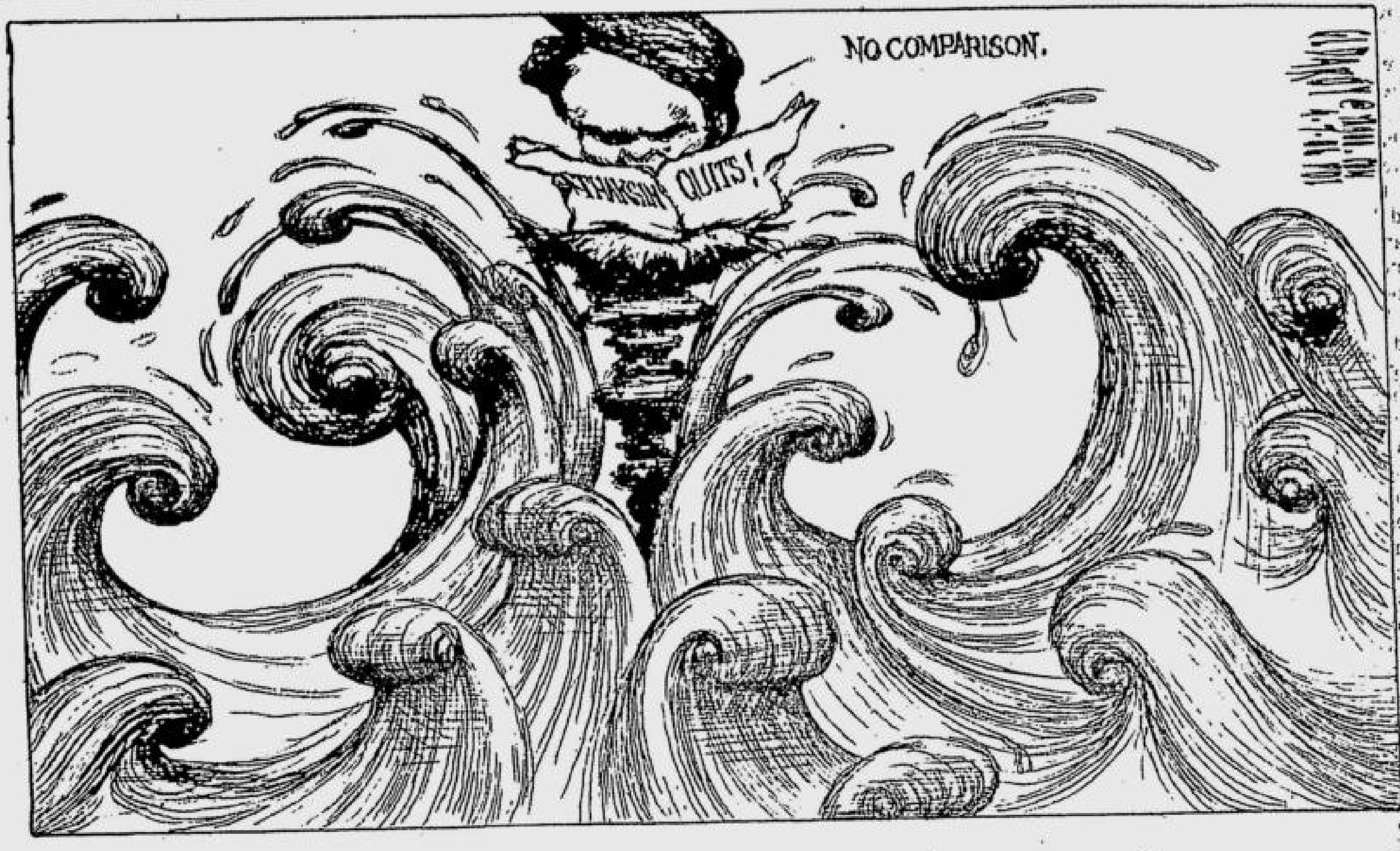
The first and most important is to show how democracy has changed since the latter half of the 20th century. That change involves the integration of protests, which became known as people power, the most spectacular examples of which led to regime change. Peaceful, public demonstrations were the 20th century's answer to the riots and violent insurrections that characterized the 18th and 19th centuries. Global gains, from the suffragette movement in the United Kingdom before World War I to general strikes in France and Spain in the 1930s, Gandhi's peaceful resistance in India and the Civil Rights movement in the United States—and after that, the Anti-War movement throughout much of the Western and developing world; Edsa in 1986 and the fall of communism—all were done outside traditional political paths, though their net effect was to push forward the democratic ideal.

Whether it's outraged Spaniards demonstrating to bring down a government, the British marching to oppose a war, Americans rallying against controversial legislation, people in Georgia, Belarus, the Philippines and Thailand rallying against certain leaders, democracy is not just about a periodic exercise of the right to vote, it's about the right to organize and be heard whenever issues of importance crop up. This is a development so new, relatively speaking, that entire peoples and nations are still trying to figure out how it works. But it is there, and it cannot be ignored. Thaksin tried to manage it through electoral machinery, but he failed.

The second thing Thaksin's fall has achieved is to serve as a reminder of the power of leaders not only to rise and stay in office, but how persons holding office retain the immense power to drag out or end political situations fraught with danger. This is particularly true in nations that do not have long traditions of leaders willingly surrendering power. Thaksin, with his supreme confidence in his electoral base, put his mandate to the test. Given a mandate that was smaller than expected, he could have brazened it out, but after making noises that he would at first, he didn't. The intervention by the king of Thailand, if it did happen, merely accorded Thaksin a face-saving way out, and points to the wisdom of the royal intervention, if it did take place, since it occurred after the people had spoken, and not before. Thaksin could sacrifice his ambition to the throne, but in the end, he also did so to preserve his political clout.

And thus, the third and final lesson from Thaksin's political fall: democracy is as much about minorities as it is about majorities. Democracy tends to suffer from the dangerous delusion that the winner should take all, and that an immense majority means an absolute lack of accountability. Thaksin used his large parliamentary majority to pass legislation and make constitutional amendments beneficial to himself, while saying there was more than enough patronage to go around for everyone. The revulsion he inspired in the Thai middle and professional classes became proof that patronage is never enough. The manner in which his supporters roughly handled the opposition led, in turn, to an erosion of support even within his base of support. Hence the stunning election results, which even the opposition didn't expect.

Thaksin's ideas of governance and political power were traditionally democratic, in a world in which the traditional ideas of democracy as being limited to periodic elections and decided by a combination of the size of a mandate and party discipline is under serious question. In that kind of situation, something had to give. And the one who gave was the only one who could: the leader, Thaksin.


NO COMPARISON.
THAKSIN QUITS!

# Thaksin gave GMA a good example

**AS I SEE IT**

*Neal H. Cruz*

DON'T GET YOUR HOPES UP. THOUGH IT IS an event devoutly to be wished, I don't think President Macapagal-Arroyo would ever do a Thaksin and resign (but this is one time I would be happy to be proven wrong).

Although the crises in the Philippines and Thailand are similar (the people hate their chief executive and are marching in the streets to persuade him/her to step down), GMA and Thaksin have many differences. Thaksin loves his country and is willing to sacrifice himself for it; GMA loves only herself, but she is willing to sacrifice everybody and everything else to save herself. Thaksin has self-respect; GMA has none. Thaksin feels shame; GMA has a thick hide. Thaksin's lieutenants want only the best for their leader; GMA's family and political supporters want only the best for themselves—they are dependent on her and would rather have her tough it out and endure all the slings and arrows hurled by the people just so they won't lose their cushy jobs.

Because he resigned, Thaksin will be remembered fondly by his people and history will be kind to him. Because GMA refuses to resign despite being caught red-handed cheating in the 2004 elections, despite 80 percent of the people wanting her to step down according to the surveys, and despite being caught violating the Constitution many times, she will be remembered harshly by her people and by history.

* * *

**Those of you who are going to the provinces during Holy Week should read this letter from Danilo Reyes of Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro. It will warm your heart.**

**"Thank you for your column dated May 20, 2005, entitled 'Please save the fire trees on MacArthur Highway.' Like you, I am an admirer of fire trees and I agree with you that the fire tree is the king of them all. The fire tree is a tree of regal and splendid beauty.**

**"I have several fire trees in our yard, and as early as March, I look forward to the appearance of the first blossoms of the fire tree. In fact, every morning, starting late February or early March, I check the fire trees for the first unfurling of their red-orange blossoms and, like you, my heart leaps with joy when I see the blossoms appearing.**

**"This summer is somewhat special. All my fire trees are in full bloom. The oldest and tallest of them, which I planted in 1987, was the first to bloom. Now it stands majestically in flaming red-orange. Its crown towers over the roof of our house and its fiery blossoms can be seen even from the highway outside our compound. Like you, I greet this fire tree every morning and thank it for showing its great beauty and flaming splendor this summer.**

**"Last week, I was pleasantly surprised to discover that the other fire trees in our yard are blooming as well. A younger fire tree standing beside the older one is in full boom. Since its red-orange blossoms appeared at least two months later than the older tree, I foresee that it will remain in bloom even after summer is gone.**

**"In your column, you mentioned several places where fire trees are in bloom this summer. I suggest you visit Batangas City where, upon reaching the boundary of San Jose town and Barangay Concepcion along the National Highway, you will see perhaps the longest stretch of highway in our country planted with fire trees. Almost all the fire trees on this highway are now in full bloom, and it is truly a majestic and spectacular sight for fire tree lovers. One could see fire trees in many places such as Quezon City, but I believe it is only in this portion of the National Highway in Batangas City where one could see fire trees in bloom along an entire six-kilometer stretch. The fire trees in Diliman and Katipunan Avenue pale in comparison with these.**

**"Now that the fire trees in Batangas are in full bloom, it is truly a sight to behold. Since the fire trees are planted on both sides of the highway, whenever I pass this stretch, I feel as if I am passing under a flaming canopy. I hope you will find time to visit this place, which is very near Metro Manila so you can admire the fire trees before the blossoming season ends.**

**"From the National Highway, I suggest you turn right to Barangay Balagtas toward the Diversion Road going to the Batangas City Port. There you will see more fire trees planted on both sides of the road. What is remarkable here is that the fire trees on this diversion road were planted only two years ago and yet they are now in full bloom. In fact, the trees are just a few meters tall.**

**"Batangas City is a hospitable place for fire trees. Last year (an election year), there was even a billboard on the roadside prohibiting the putting up of campaign propaganda on the fire trees. Not one campaign poster was pasted on the fire trees.**

**"Enjoy your fire tree watching in Batangas."**

**The letter was dated May 21, 2005. I don't know why it reached the INQUIRER offices only recently. Maybe he wrote it last year but mailed it only recently because summer is here and May is coming and the blooming season is about to start again. Maybe some of the fire trees are already beginning to bloom. When you pass through Batangas this weekend or next week, maybe you will see the trees already in bloom. Even if they are not, don't fret. May is just around the corner.**

* * *

Don't forget the return engagement tonight, by insistent public demand, of the Tiongco Brothers at the Front Page piano bar, on T.M. Kalaw Street, Manila, beside the Rizal Park. As in the first show, they will be joined by Marri Nallos, otherwise known as the Crystal Voice of Asia, and Juan Rodrigo, pioneer telenovela star.

# Orwell's Doublethink in Manila 2006

**PASSION FOR REASON**

*Raul C. Pangalangan*

RANDY DAVID AND RONALD LLAMAS WERE "invited" to Camp Karingal but were curtly told that turning down the invitation was not allowed. Risa Hontiveros-Baraquel was hauled off to Camp Karingal as well, but she wasn't really under arrest. She was actually being "rescued" and taken out of harm's way—harm, it turns out, that the rescuers themselves would inflict upon her group.

The Supreme Court said in 2003 that declaring a "state of rebellion" was "an utter superfluity" which was "for all legal intents .... deemed not written." So why, it was asked before the Court, is something "deemed not written" then spoken over and over again to cause fear?

The Pinoy now watches the reality show "Pinoy Big Brother" but he must learn that the term came from George Orwell's "1984," whose Thought Police lurked everywhere with the message, "Big Brother is Watching You." Their slogan: "War is Peace, Freedom is Slavery, Ignorance is Strength." Yeah, arrest is salvation, and detention requires no RSVP.

So why the disingenuous turn of phrase? Orwell explains: "[The truth] is whatever the records and the memories agree upon. [I]t is necessary to rearrange one's memories ... then it is necessary to *forget* that one has done so. [This] trick is called *doublethink* [defined as] the power of holding two contradictory beliefs in one's mind simultaneously, and accepting both of them. ... To tell deliberate lies while genuinely believing in them, to forget any fact that has become inconvenient, and then, when it becomes necessary again, to draw it back from oblivion for just so long as it is needed. ... [T]he subtlest practitioners of doublethink are those who invented [it] and know that it is a vast system of mental cheating."

Orwell gave other examples: "The Ministry of Peace concerns itself with war, the Ministry of Truth with lies, the Ministry of Love with torture, and the Ministry of Plenty with Starvation. These contradictions are not accidental ... they are deliberate exercises in doublethink. For it is only by reconciling contradictions that power can be retained indefinitely."

*"Power is in tearing human minds to pieces and putting them together again in new shapes of your own choosing....* Everything else we shall destroy—everything... If you want a picture of the future, imagine a boot stamping on a human face—forever."

But unforeseen dangers lurk even for the "mental cheaters." The politicians launch a "people's initiative," and seize a sovereign power reserved solely to the people unmediated by barangay captains, mayors or congressmen. GMA's defenders in Sigaw ng Bayan ask: What's so wrong about that? Politicians are people too!

Right. Then we can also say: Soldiers are people, too, and by that logic, they should be free to march on Edsa with civilians. Then why are their leaders being court-martialed? Come to think of it, when the soldiers storm the Palace and mount a coup, hey, ain't that people power as well?

But the Cha-cha train's chief engineer, President Macapagal-Arroyo, has said—with reason—that soldiers renounce their freedom of speech once they bear arms. Either GMA tells her minions to shut up, or she tricks the nation into doublethink.

The generals who withdrew their loyalty at Edsa II were "heroes," but the officers who now propose to do the same thing are mutineers and criminals. Orwell explained this in "Animal Farm." He chronicled an uprising by farm animals against the oppressive humans, moved by the maxim, "All animals are equal." The rebellion was led by the pigs, who no sooner issued the Seven Commandments, simplified for the benefit of the dumber animals in the slogan, "Four legs good, two legs bad."

At first, the birds objected. How about our wings, they asked? But, explained a lawyerly boar (no misspelling there, mind you), no need to worry, my fellow animals. "A bird's wings is an organ of propulsion, not of manipulation. It should be regarded as a leg. The distinguishing mark of man is the hand, the instrument with which he does all his mischief." Ah, an argument worthy of a true *compañero*.

Before long, the ruling pigs had taken to sleeping on beds, but the other animals invoked their Fourth Commandment, "No animal shall sleep on a bed." Another lawyerly pig then explained that, no, what it meant was, "No animal shall sleep on a bed *with sheets*. A bed merely means a place to sleep in. A pile of straw ... is a bed, properly regarded. The rule was against sheets, which are a human invention." And finally the new commandment was: "All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others."

The Dr. and the Dra. Evils of the world need what Austin Powers calls "cunning linguists." Hence the natural alliance between fascist pigs and learned counsel. The Palace owes us a little more candor and, our intelligence, a little more respect. It was bad enough when they merely pushed words to their narrowest, most literal meanings, while betraying "the spirit that giveth life." Today even the plain text is perverted and twisted, and we need to stretch our credulity just to pretend that we are not being so insulted.

In the movie "Amistad," John Adams argued before the US Supreme Court for the liberty of African slaves found aboard a Spanish ship. In the closing scene, a real Supreme Court justice, Harry Blackmun, appeared in a cameo role and read the verdict restoring the slaves to freedom. The slaves' leader was unshackled, and he asked his lawyer: "What words did you say?"

Words, indeed, have the power to unlock chains and cut through iron bars. Or as the Palace would have it, to conceal, not convey, the truth. Of the rampaging Roman Legions, it was said: "They created a desolation, and called it peace."

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*Comments to passionforreason@gmail.com*

# Filipino solution needed for Gloria crisis

**ANALYSIS**

*Amando Doronila*

IN A KNEE-JERK RESPONSE TO THE RESIGNATION of Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, a group of five senators launched the other day a nationwide campaign to put pressure on President Macapagal-Arroyo to step down, to pave the way for a snap election.

The campaign indicates that Thaksin's exit has created repercussions in the Philippines, a kindred democracy. It has revived the faltering "Gloria-resign" movement. The campaign hopes that Thailand's example can be duplicated to drive the President out of office.

In a demonstration of the Filipino proclivity for ad hoc solutions to difficult problems, the new campaign has all the earmarks of a project that is long on enthusiasm but short on serious consideration of its chances of success.

Five senators of varying political stripes decided to band together to give new impetus to the eight-month agitation to force a snap election. They are Senate President Franklin Drilon, Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and Senators Panfilo Lacson, Jinggoy Estrada and Jamby Madrigal. No group can be more discordant. The only thing they have in common, other than their obsession to oust Ms Arroyo, is that they are senators. This grouping does not define them as a political category for effective political action as a political party. It is a politically heterogeneous group, and this imperfection dooms the campaign to being still-born.

It is easy to overlook that Thaksin's resignation resulted from a combination of elements peculiar to the Thai political system: (1) the intervention of King Bhumibol Adulyadej; (2) the big boycott vote that frustrated Thaksin's bid to get a fresh mandate through the snap election; (3) people power protests were not the main element that ousted Thaksin; and (4) the ouster actions were staged inside the framework of the constitutional and parliamentary system (in particular, the party system).

Since the intervention of the king has been discussed in previous columns, I proceed to the three other points. People power played a secondary role. The opposition alliance shifted to the boycott strategy (in the arena of parliament) after large demonstrations failed to force Thaksin to step down. In the Philippine crisis, nearly eight months of people power has failed to oust Ms Arroyo.

We may now reduce the two other elements (snap election and boycott) to one essential point, which is that the Thai crisis was resolved in the arena of Thailand's parliamentary, party and electoral system. The Thais resolved the crisis rather relatively quickly, and without allowing the political standoff to drag indefinitely. Incidentally, the resolution of the stalemate provides an argument for the parliamentary system as an approach to break gridlocks.

The election boycott campaign is allowed by the Thai constitutional system and the snap election is not hindered by too many legal restrictions that exist in the Philippine political system.

Thaksin called the snap election as a tactical move to blunt the people-power protests and to seek a fresh electoral mandate to circumvent accusations of corruption and abuse of power. Thaksin used all the tricks allowed in the parliamentary system.

The opposition also dug deep in the bag of accepted political tricks, using the boycott vote or abstention. The results proved that Thaksin's tactical move had backfired, and that the opposition had turned the tables on him

In the Philippine crisis, the President used all the available tricks to roll back attempts to oust her, including crushing an impeachment complaint and distributing patronage to provincial followers and the declaration of a national emergency. The opposition was not remiss in employing all available constitutional and legal methods to oust the President—including impeachment and Cabinet defections—after the people power option had failed. In Thailand, the institutional underpinnings of constitutional democracy were played out and worked to resolve a crisis. This was especially true of the party system.

The results of the snap election underline the key role of a functional working party in a parliamentary system. Although Thaksin's Thai Rak Thai party won majorities in parliament and in the popular vote, it can't form a government and elect a prime minister to replace the resigned Thaksin because the big boycott vote in Bangkok and the south nullified these majorities and denied Thaksin the mandate he had sought. Thaksin and the opposition checkmated each other with tools allowed by the constitution and the electoral system.

The opposition's decisive weapon was the boycott of the polls. The election results show that in 38 constituencies out of a total of 500, no candidate got the 20-percent minimum votes needed to claim seats in parliament, because of the strong votes for abstention. Under Thai election laws, elections are not completed unless all the 500 parliamentary seats are filled. A new parliament cannot form a government without meeting this requirement.

It cannot be overstated that the configuration of events and elements that led to Thaksin's resignation cannot be duplicated in the Philippines to produce a similar outcome. The Thai resolution highlights the crucial importance of a functional party system in resolving political crises within a constitutional system. This is why the campaign of five senators for a snap election is a futile exercise. They have to do something more creative than applying Thai solutions to Filipino crises.

# Imagining KC

**AT LARGE**

*Rina Jimenez-David*

IN THE NOVEL "THE LOVELY BONES," author Alice Sebold posits a most unique, even revolutionary notion: that the dead in Heaven actually envy the living.

When loved ones pass on, we comfort ourselves by telling ourselves that they have "moved on to a better place," and by shucking their mortal coil, the dead have achieved a whole new level of being.

But in her main character Susie Salmon, Sebold creates a 14-year-old protagonist who is abused and murdered by a neighbor and then watches from Heaven as her family, friends and neighbors cope with her absence, struggle to find out what happened to her, and then somehow go on with their lives.

On the cusp of womanhood when her life was snuffed out, Susie struggles with her feelings of love and envy for her younger sister, who gets to live the life that Susie's murderer had cruelly snatched from her. Even in Heaven, when anything she thinks of appears before her, Susie hankers for even a brief moment sharing in the human condition—to fall in love with a boy, to kiss him for the first time, to make love with him, to bear his child.

The book, and Susie Salmon, came to mind yesterday, at the observance of the 18th birth anniversary of KC de Venecia, daughter of Speaker Joe and "Manay" Gina de Venecia. KC's death in a fire the other year shocked and saddened not just the couple's family and friends but even total strangers. But as testimonials and the entire celebration itself proved, KC's passing has led to the "opening of many other doors and windows," as her brother Christopher remarked, giving meaning to a life so abruptly ended.

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**ANOTHER brother, Ipe Cruz, noted that if KC had lived, her parents would no doubt have wanted to throw her "a big party on the grandest scale" to mark her 18th birthday, her social "debut." "And this is not what KC would have wanted," he remarked, adding that, discussing with Christopher what KC would have preferred to mark the occasion, they agreed that "she would have wanted a car."**

**But the "courageous, fearless, and grounded" young woman that KC had been also nursed other dreams, primarily of studying abroad, and eventually "to live her own life." As Ipe noted, KC was one young woman "who was never afraid to be her own self."**

**During the sharing of reminiscences, and even during the Mass celebrated by Msgr. Augusto Laban, my thoughts wandered to KC up in Heaven, what she was thinking, what she was feeling, if she was somehow missing her life on earth, and regretting that she wasn't even given the chance to throw a grand bash for her debut, drive her own car, or get an international education.**

**But these are all questions born of fanciful imagination. The reality is that the legacy that KC leaves behind has far more impact on the lives of others than one would expect from one so young and as yet so inexperienced.**

* * *

PERHAPS her biggest legacy is the INA Foundation, which was born of her parents', but especially her mother's, unfathomable sorrow and grief, which, in typical Manay Gina fashion, was transmuted into action.

"KC started it all," declared clinical psychologist Honey Carandang, to whom Gina went for counseling and "healing," and who today acts as a general adviser for INA, which stands for "Inang Naulila sa Anak," or "Mothers Orphaned by their Children."

Together with other "orphaned mothers," particularly radio-TV personality Ali Sotto who lost her son Miko in an accident a year before KC's death, Gina set up the foundation, to serve, in Carandang's words, "for their own healing, to heal each other, and reach out to heal other mothers."

KC's birthday "party" also marked the blessing of the construction site of the INA Healing Center in the compound of the Department of Social Welfare and Development. The center will serve as a place where mothers could come together for talking and healing, as well as for training for grief counseling, starting with the INA members.

"Grief is not a state but a process," clarifies Carandang, and the work that confronts mothers (and fathers) who have lost children is to "confront our unacceptable process and realize that the process never ends, to come to terms with it, and with the world in which it is possible for children to leave their parents."

With time, and with the help of family, friends and other mothers, acceptance will come, and with acceptance, said Carandang, comes peace and sadness, and from sorrow "expectancy and even joy."

* * *

**IT might never have been in KC's realm of imagination or expectation that her life—and death—would trigger the getting together of mothers sharing a common pain and, from this getting together, the creation of a healing center for women dealing with unspeakable loss.**

**The most endearing thing that all her family and friends shared about KC was how simple her dreams were, and how typical of a teenager—to be finally of age to live life on her own terms, to be free of "security aides" or even just watchful parents so she could do what she wanted, to "chill out" with an ever-busy and preoccupied father.**

**Speaker Joe and Manay Gina will never know what sort of woman KC would have turned out to be. They can only imagine, and perhaps in imagining the KC of the future, they are in fact hearing her voice, giving substance to her dreams.**

**If, like Susie Salmon, KC and other young women are up there, hankering for a share of the humble human condition they have transformed from, maybe the best we can do for them is to honor their desires in our own imagining of them, as they are now.**

**Happy birthday, KC, and welcome to womanhood!**

# Poison

**LOOKING BACK**

*Ambeth R. Ocampo*

HISTORIANS ARE ALWAYS ASKED IF THE PRESENT is much better than the past. Our lives may be easier in terms of modern conveniences (I wouldn't trade my present life for a cave and *bahag* in the pre-colonial Philippines), but somehow people don't seem to change very much.

It was horrifying to hear the news about the high school student who laced his classmate's water jug with poison. This was not a practical joke that back-fired. Rather, the student was envious of the classmate who was ahead of him academically so, to even the field, he applied his elementary knowledge of chemistry and poisoned the offending classmate.

Poison has always been part of Philippine history and culture. There are some interesting narratives that have come down to us from Spanish historical sources, and some continue to be made current by folklore and hearsay. Each time I go to the Visayas, for example, some friends advise me to be mindful of what I eat and drink lest I take in poison or a love potion. An aphrodisiac I might try taking, but anything harmful won't be fun at all.

There is a particular kind of *aswang* (witch) in our folklore that kills or maims its victims by poison. In his "Treatment of the Bewitched," Rizal describes this type of witch. So while I was going through the list of "crimes" in the index of the 55-volume compilation of documents, I ran my fingers through the following entries in search of something to write about: bodily violence, assault and battery, torture, stabbing, poisoning, murder, assassination, homicide, infanticide, parricide, gambling, smuggling, swindling, forgery, counterfeiting, embezzlement, highway robbery, adultery, concubinage, licentiousness, rape, bigamy, polygamy, sodomy and sins against nature, blasphemy, simony, teaching erroneous doctrines, treason, desertion, extortion, insults, perjury, abduction, etc.

It is significant that the crimes with the most entries were: murder, theft, improper relations and gambling. But I was drawn to poisoning because there was one reference that ran through three pages (often there is just a passing reference to the items you look up in the index). The material here quoted is from the 17th century work, "Sucesos de las islas Filipinas" by Antonio de Morga, made famous by Rizal's annotations:

"The natives of these islands quite commonly use as venoms and poisons the herbs of that class found throughout the islands. They are so efficacious and deadly that they produce wonderful effects. There is a lizard, commonly found in houses, somewhat dark-green in color, one palm long, and as thick as three fingers, which is called a *chacon*. [Rizal, in a footnote, identified this as a *tuko*.] They put this in a joint of bamboo and cover it up. The slaver [saliva?] of this animal during its imprisonment is gathered. It is an exceedingly strong poison, when introduced as above stated, in the food or drink, in however minute quantities.

"There are various herbs known and gathered by the natives for the same use. Some of them are used dry, and others green; some are to be mixed in food, and others inhaled. Some kill simply by touching them with the hands or feet, or by sleeping upon them. The natives are so skillful in making compounds from these substances that they mix and apply them in such a manner that they take effect at once, or at a set time."

Morga goes on to narrate how effective certain flies and insects are as antidotes: "Most certain and efficacious antidotes are certain small flies or insects, of a violet color, found on certain bushes in the islands of Pintados [Visayas]. These are shut up in clean bamboo joint and covered over. There they breed and multiply. Ground rice is put in with them, and they exist thereon. Every week they are visited [Rizal actually changes the word "visit" in his edition and says they are shook around or irritated] and the old rice removed and new rice put in, and they are kept alive by this means. If six of these insects are taken in a spoonful of wine or water—for they emit no bad odor and taste like cress—they produce a wonderful effect. Even when people go to banquets or dinners where, if there is any suspicion, they are wont to take with them these insects, in order to preserve and assure themselves from any danger of poison or venom."

The above appears like a segment from "Fear Factor," and just reading the text makes me want to throw up. In this case, the cure seems far worse than the poison.

Naturally, all this appears to be old hat, but if you visit a traditional Chinese drugstore, you will see a lot of herbs, bugs and animal parts in little drawers. It may all seem disgusting, but it is backed up by thousands of years of experience.

I don't think anyone would want to poison me, but those who think there is a threat—real or imagined—could get a pill box filled with these flies. Or as I read in one of the works of the late Renato "Katoks" D. Tayag, someone in Angeles, Pampanga used to swear by a spoonful of fried lice freshly harvested from some young girl's hair. I guess we can paraphrase the old saying, "What is medicine to one is poison to another."

Tales like these make Lenten fast and abstinence so much easier.

* * *

*Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu*

# Guilt and shame

**PINOY KASI**

*Michael L. Tan*

IT HAS BEEN 60 YEARS SINCE THE ANTHROPOLOGIST Ruth Benedict wrote "The Chrysanthemum and the Sword," which proposed that the Japanese mainly used shame for social control while in Western societies, it was mainly guilt.

Many social scientists still use this "shame/guilt" dichotomy. The latest version says that Muslim societies are driven mainly by shame and honor, and that this translates into strong aggression to defend one's honor or, more specifically, the honor of the Islamic umma or community.

These propositions are controversial, especially because there's always an underlying assumption that "shame" societies (mainly "non-Western") are less advanced than "guilt" (mainly "Western") societies, but I've wondered if we might want to use that framework, and maybe test it, by looking at the Philippines. In today's column, I'm going to present some very preliminary thoughts about this. As you might have guessed, the idea for doing this was provoked by the recent resignation of Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra and a deluge, in conversations and through texts, of the snide and the witty, from "Thaksinin Now Na" to "The Thais have such a powerful sense of shame."

Before we look specifically at the Philippines, let me just get the terms in place. Shame societies tend to use ostracism for social control. A person behaves because it is, well, the Filipino term captures it all, it is "*nakakahiya*" not to. Notions of shame are very much tied to concepts of face and of reputation, especially of the larger social groups one belongs to, for example, the family.

Guilt, on the other hand, is tied to a realization that one has done something wrong, captured in Christian societies by the notion of "sin." I have done something wrong, I am guilty, and I must do something to confess and then to atone for that wrong. Westerners sometimes think "guilt" societies are superior to "shame" societies because it is more ethics-based: one behaves in a certain way because it is the right thing to do.

## Greater good

The problem I have with the shame/guilt formulation is that it is a dichotomy. It does not recognize that there will be sharp variations among both shame and guilt societies. The Japanese, for example, represent one extreme of shame societies, where the honor of the entire nation may be invoked, and where the defense may involve suicide, as in the case of the kamikaze pilots of World War II.

In "high-shame" societies, even the slightest hint of scandal or dishonor may be enough to provoke a resignation. Japanese executives have been known to commit suicide because of financial anomalies in their company. And in South Korea last month, Prime Minister Lee Hae-chan resigned after he was criticized for playing golf even as a nationwide railway strike was underway.

On the surface, shame seems to be tied mainly to "face" and to reputations, but ultimately, they are linked to the idea that the greater good must be served. And this is where we find variations: not all societies have such an expanded sense of the "greater good" as the Japanese or Koreans do.

We shouldn't entertain illusions here about the greater good always being noble; there are still vested interests working here. The South Korean prime minister's golf addiction was unfortunate because elections were coming up and there was probably great pressure from his political party to resign.

At the same time, it is still always amazing to consider how far people will go to avoid shame. And I feel Westerners often trivialize this shame by reducing it to a matter of preserving reputations. Shame does have its own complicated ethics, "right" being defined by the greater good. In the Thai example, no less than the king intervened to ask Thaksin to resign. In one stroke, political tensions were drastically reduced and the country started to move on. No talk here about the lack of qualified successors, or of thieves taking over from thieves like we have in the Philippines.

Westerners also trivialize shame societies by talking about aggressive acts to preserve honor. There is little recognition of a sense of atonement that exists and how this is often inwardly directed. Look at how President Bill Clinton clung to his post even amid the sex scandals; in shame societies, there would have been a resignation, or worse. *Seppuku* (or *hara-kiri*, considered a more vulgar term) literally translates as slicing open the stomach. It is agonizing atonement, even as it takes on a symbolic meaning of letting the spirit free to leave the body.

## Filipino shame

So where do we fall in the spectrum of shame societies? Certainly, *hiya* is a core value, tied so much to a sense of "face." We even pride ourselves with this *hiya*, claiming it is very communitarian, making us different from individualistic (read: "*walang hiya*") Westerners.

Yet I have to wonder about our claims to a communitarian orientation. Yes, we think about the family's reputation but not much beyond that. Maybe sometimes we talk about regional pride, and occasionally about Pinoy pride, but we tend to rant and rage about the superficial, like branding as racist those Filipina cookies sold in Europe.

I'm afraid, too, that our notions of shame have mutated, grafted on to all the worst features of rugged individualism, to the point where we now equate individual good with the greater good. Politicians are especially prone to that perverted version of *hiya*: the country would collapse, and therefore it would be *nakakahiya* if I resigned.

Moreover, our notion of shame is often expressed in the form of aggression against those perceived to be threatening our honor. No *seppuku* or *hara-kiri* in the Philippines; instead, when threatened, Filipino politicians lash out with calumny and libel, with lies and demolition jobs, to restore what they think is honor.

It doesn't have to be that way. If we could just develop a true sense of the greater good, tied to a concept of nationhood, shame could become quite productive, as we are seeing now in Thailand.

We need to develop both an ethos as well as mechanisms that will help future politicians to recognize that there is honor in resignation, in accepting defeat. We don't need a king to mediate; civil society can do that, paying homage to those who have the decency to make a graceful exit when needed.

All that will take time, but this early, I also feel strongly that we need to moderate the shaming techniques that we think will bring down the corrupt and the dishonest. Ironically, the shaming here—especially because it is so sensationalistic, so show biz—drives the stakes higher for the target of the shaming, making them more obstinate, more vicious until eventually, they begin to believe that it is actually dishonorable to be honorable.

There are many different models of shame societies. Unfortunately, ours seems to take off from a Western variant: that of the Mafia.

# Let the soldiers speak out instead of firing their guns

AMANDO DORONILA IS NOT usually dull in his analysis. But his assertion that the military is increasingly flexing its muscle in the country's political life is simply way off the mark. (PDI, 3/24/06)

I am not a big fan of the military, but AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga's statement about the "propensity" of certain media sectors to mythicize putschists is based on facts.

Gringo Honasan and his cohorts were once portrayed as "darlings of the media" and even depicted as poster boys of the post-Marcos regime. The same was true in the case of the Magdalo mutineers. I remember a broadcaster covering their Oakwood uprising, commenting on how "*pogi*" Trillanes was on TV. The appeal of young, "cute" soldiers spewing convoluted pseudo-political rhetoric is simply too irresistible for a media system always competing for readership, viewership and profit.

I cannot accept Doronila's irresponsible, nauseating claim that "the media only discover messiahs." To say that journalists and media practitioners are only passive reporters of facts and thoroughly politically translucent without bias is misleading. The media have the power to shape public opinion and encourage certain political action.

The fact that they earn their livelihood from their pen proves all the more that media people have a stake in the way their craft is practiced. Perhaps, the more accurate statement should be that the media have always set themselves apart, portraying themselves as messianic figures in the country's democratic project. But that is for Doronila and his colleagues to decide.

In the end, it is just unfair to say that because "nearly one dozen coup attempts since 1986 were staged by his cohorts in the officer corps," Senga is guilty of the same offense. That is simply wrong. That is guilt by association and unfair.

The best way to critique the position of the Armed Forces of the Philippines in these extraordinarily trying times is to allow them to voice their views and, subsequently, comment on them, based on facts and sound rational reasoning. For genuine democracy truly flourishes when there is a robust exchange in the marketplace of ideas.

Instead of being stereotyped as dumb automatons, the AFP military brass should be encouraged to have their take at the agora of public opinion and see for themselves that the majesty of the state is made evident not when our soldiers start shooting at each other, but when ideas clash in an open, transparent forum to be decided on the merits of facts and sound, rational reasoning and common sense.

**—JACK ANTERO VILLA,**
**jackvilla50@yahoo.com**

# An attack on the integrity of Congress and its members

WE VIEW WITH GRAVE CONcern the apparent human rights violations being committed by police authorities against legitimate dissent and peaceful protests, including those directed at members of Congress. We refer in particular to the dispersal of a peaceful rally marking International Women's Day and the arrest of its leaders, including Akbayan Party-List Rep. Risa Hontiveros-Baraquel, one of our member-legislators.

These acts, along with the arrest of Bayan Muna Rep. Crispin Beltran and the pending arrest of the likes of Gabriela's Rep. Liza Maza, are matters of serious public concern. They have created an atmosphere of creeping repression reminiscent of dictatorial rule.

There is hardly a shred of evidence to show that those arrested or marked for arrest are part of any alleged conspiracy to overthrow the government by force. The record only shows that they are critics of the present administration. Also, the recent Women's Day rally was held to further uphold and promote women's rights and welfare here and around the world. Has a woman President declared war on the rights and welfare of her own sex and gender?

Even worse, these acts are being committed not against ordinary citizens but against personalities of public stature, duly elected representatives of the people, who are supposed to be immune from this kind of harassment. If congressmen can be arrested and detained for exercising their rights under the law, how much more the ordinary citizen who may have a legitimate complaint or grievance against the government?

In a healthy and fully functioning democracy, it is the duty of legislators to make sure that the executive branch remains transparent and accountable to the people. That duty includes scrutinizing with a clear and critical eye the policies and acts of the executive branch.

Attacks on legislators who are doing their duty are attacks on the integrity of the legislature as a coequal branch of government.

**—RAMON SAN PASCUAL,**
**executive director,**
**Philippine Legislators' Committee on**
**Population and Development**
**(PLCPD), Rm. 611,**
**Northwing Building,**
**House of Representatives, QC**

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# Who are the real traitors?

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO'S paid hacks are circulating a video, painting the broad opposition to her tottering rule as "traitors."

Ms Arroyo and her cabal of cheats, robbers, killers and Bush bootlickers are the real traitors to the Filipino people. They are guilty of committing the most treacherous crimes against the people and of working for the interests of a foreign power.

First, they steal the money from the people (as in the fertilizer scam, the rice hybrid program scam, the Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard scam, etc.—one of them flaunts the family's ill-gotten wealth by lounging in posh hotels while the masses suffer from hunger, high electricity rates, unemployment and grinding poverty).

Then, they use that money to steal the elections. They line the pockets of bureaucrats (like someone who used to be with the Commission on Elections) and generals to get them to manipulate the election results so that Ms Arroyo is declared the winner.

With the blessings of Jesuit priest Romeo Intengan and upon the direction of Norberto Gonzales and Eduardo Emita, they later run after opposition members, jailing and killing them. And they bludgeon the press for exposing their lies. They even give a military "*berdugo*" a promotion and a medal.

To stay in power, the President licks the boots of George W. Bush by latching on to his "war on terror" and promising to sell out the national patrimony by assuring the mangling of the Constitution.

Meanwhile, her hatchet men (in the military) in rigging the elections are rewarded with promotions and become her most rabid defenders within the AFP chain of command. They betray their own oath by defending a usurper instead of defending the Constitution.

Now, who are the real traitors?

**—CONNIE BRAGAS-REGALADO,**
**chair, Migrante International,**
**65 10th Avenue, Murphy Socorro,**
**Cubao, Quezon City**

# Just ignore Marcosian decrees

WHO WAS THAT WISE GUY WHO said that every country deserves the government it has?

We Filipinos have the Arroyo administration because we allowed it to come about—the first time, via a coup euphemistically called Edsa II; the second time via dubious elections and "Hello Garci" calls. (She didn't call him up to talk about the weather, did she?) Because we allowed it, we have no knuckles to rap but our own.

Somehow, the 2004 polls were a tragic repeat of the 1949 elections, when "the birds and the bees" voted in Mindanao—"*pati aswang pa raw*" (reportedly, even the witches).

Give it to Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo for succeeding in 2004 where Marcos failed in 1986.

To those who believe that Divine Providence guides the destinies of nations, February 1986 was ordained by Him to be the end of the road for Marcos. "To everything," as the Ecclesiastes declares, "there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven." Which means that, with or without People Power, Marcos' time was up and he had to go. Providence had enough of him.

Marcos is now history, and GMA will follow.

I respectfully submit that GMA is just a de facto, not a de jure, President. But while she discharges the functions of a President, what are we to do?

A religious minister points to Romans 13; where Paul admonishes: "Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. Therefore, whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves." (Rom 13:1-2, NKJV)

Sure, a believer should follow Paul's commands, but he should follow them in spirit, not in the letter, because the latter kills, as Paul himself says in II Cor 3:6. Thus, it was not wrong for a non-Jewish German, during Hitler's reign of terror, to avoid being his subject, otherwise that German would have been as answerable for the Führer's crimes and atrocities.

One must render unto Ceasar what is due him, and only this. What is due the Arroyo administration? I confess I don't know the answer. Definitely, one should continue to follow the laws of the land. But must one obey Ms Arroyo's Marcosian decrees? We've had more than enough of those fiats.

If the Arroyo administration is what we Pinoys deserve, so be it. But must one, in conscience, follow her dictates?

**—MAXIMINO NOBLE III,**
**3/F Prudential Bank Bldg.,**
**2182 Chino Roces Ave.,**
**Makati City**

# GSIS, SSS being sold for a song

WE ARE SADDENED BY WHAT'S happening in the boardroom of Equitable-PCIBank, considering that Social Security System president Corazon de la Paz is reportedly hell-bent in giving the bank on a silver platter to the SM Group of taipan Henry Sy.

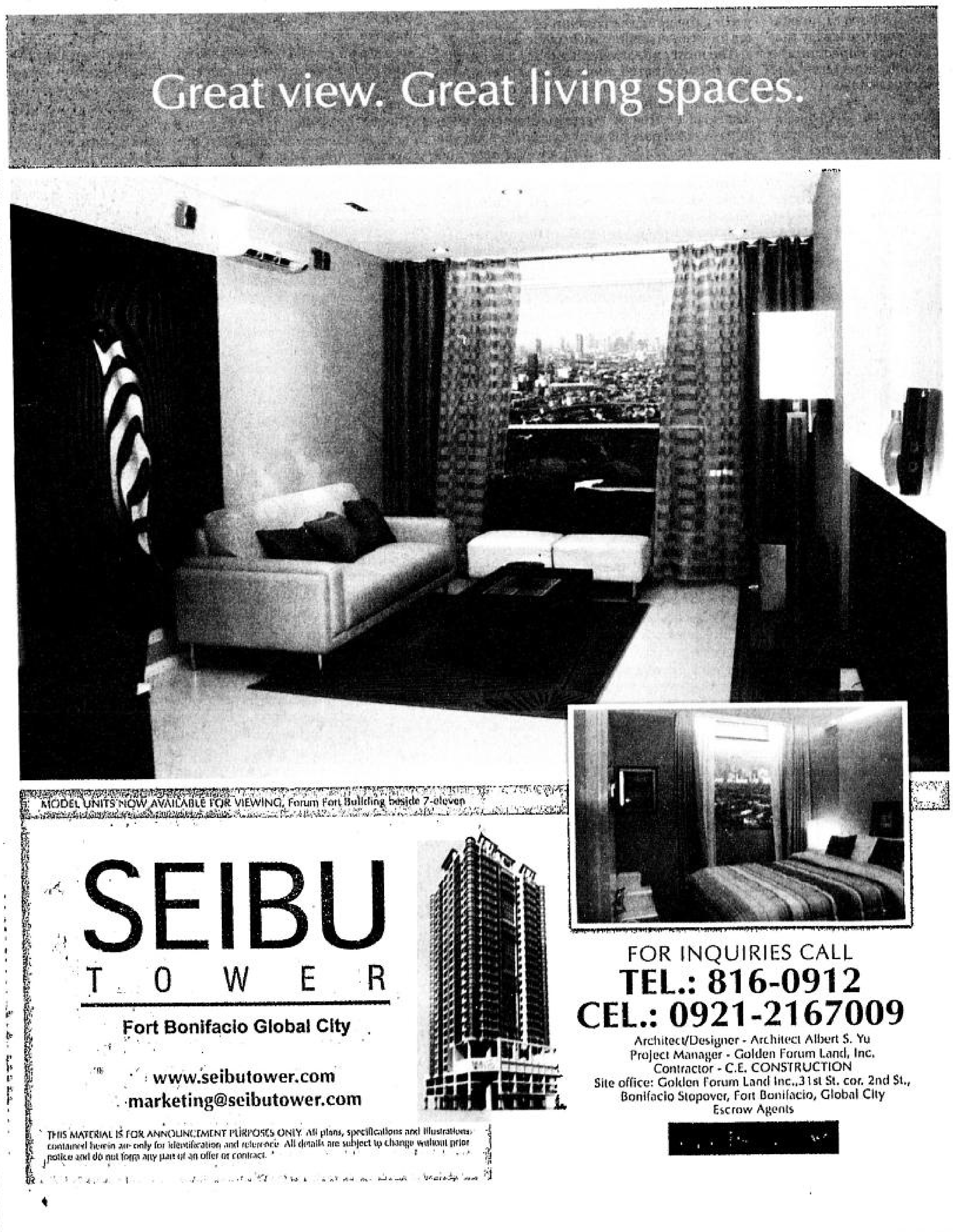
But what really got our attention was the March 30 column of Conrado Banal III, in which he recounted that no less than Government Service Insurance System chair Bernardino Abes is now carrying the torch for the Sys.

With these developments, the more that GSIS and SSS members should rally behind GSIS president and general manager Winston Garcia as he single-handedly fights off the attempt by the SM Group to take over EPCIB through a merger with its bank, Banco de Oro.

To make a long story short, it is now only Garcia left opposing the valuation of EPCIB shares at P56 per share, when it should be selling at the current market price of around P80 for every EPCIB share. Garcia, in effect, is also opposing the intent of the SM Group to just swap BDO shares with EPCIB shares. If Garcia will have his way, the only acceptable route for the Sys' acquisition of the government's 40-percent stake in EPCIB is for them to pay out in cash at the right price, which is upwards of P92 per share.

If Abes and Dela Paz succeed in selling the GSIS and SSS for a song to the SM Group, we know whom to blame for this sellout of the interests of GSIS and SSS members.

**—DELCIE PERNIA,**
**556 Guava St. Phase II,**
**CAA, Las Piñas City**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# Presidential qualifications

VOICES ON INQ7.NET

MY FAMILY AND I STRONGLY SUGGEST THAT THERE BE A REGulatory body that verifies the qualifications of candidates for public office, presidential candidates in particular, although this could also hold for other elective public servants. Such a regulatory body could check the following:

- The candidate's age and education
- The candidate's citizenship
- The candidate's character and personality

The candidate must pass a psychological test. The test will try to determine if the candidate has a criminal mind. Psychological testing must be done in a foreign country, like the United States or England.

Maybe, by doing these tests and qualification verifications, the Philippines will have better and responsible leaders who can shape a better future for the country.

We hope this works. We know it will, if it is done.—**Romy Cator (via e-mail)**

* * *

The Philippines and Filipinos have been riding on a merry-go-round year after year, but the ride has never been merry for the majority. No matter who is in power, the economy gets worse, and only the politicians and their cohorts benefit. Many have given up in frustration and packed up to seek sanity elsewhere. Some have even traded their superior educational background for more stable menial jobs overseas.

Here in the Greater Washington area, "the Washington Connection" (as the Washington Woman magazine calls it) is composed of Filipino domestics who are much sought-after and jealously guarded by their bosses. They are even enticed and "pirated" by wealthy (and sometimes less-educated) employers by offering higher salaries.

Indeed, the rulers of our country have driven good people away. Many of our nurses and doctors have abandoned the Philippines and their talents benefit other countries instead of their own.

What is wrong? Sociologist Randy David has done research on the answers and should be given the opportunity to apply his findings to finally get the country moving forward. I will take up dual citizenship to be able to vote him into office if he ever runs.—**Josie Lim Cruz, Maryland, USA (via e-mail)**

* * *

The first time I read about INQUIRER columnist Randy David as a possible presidential contender ("Time Running Out" by Sylvia S. Mayuga in INQ7.net, March 26, 2006), I found it a most welcome idea.

David has written several articles that should be the solid basis for Filipinos to choose him from among others. He is morally obligated to practice what he has preached in his writings. He can do nothing less.

I also would like to nominate former Supreme Court Justice Isagani Cruz, Raul Pangalangan and Ramon J. Farolan as secretaries of justice, foreign affairs and defense, respectively.

I hope that, given the chance, the Philippines will move forward under their stewardship.—**Ramon A. Mayuga, Essen, Germany (via e-mail)**

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# GMA asked: Stop Sierra Madre rape

TROY MALCOLM/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

**TRIP**
Kristie Kenney, the new American ambassador to the Philippines, shares a laugh with Zamboanga City Mayor Celso Lobregat after they almost tripped on a set of stairs during Ms Kenney's visit to the city April 4. The new US ambassador also went to other parts of Mindanao in her first trip outside Manila after she assumed the position.

INFANTA, QUEZON—More than 20,000 Church leaders, local officials and villagers from the towns of Real, Infanta and General Nakar (Reina) have submitted a petition asking President Macapagal-Arroyo to stop logging in the Sierra Madre mountain ranges.

"We may be young but we are not deaf and blind not to be aware of what is happening here in our area. We're concerned over the continuous widespread cutting of trees in Sierra Madre," said 7,444 Reina youngsters in a separate letter to Ms Arroyo.

The petitioners, led by Infanta Catholic Bishop Rolando Tria Tirona, head of the Prelature of Infanta, also asked the President to replace Antonio Principe, Department of Environment and Natural Resources executive director for Southern Tagalog; Emrich Borja, DENR-Quezon chief; and Antonio Diwa, community environment and natural resources officer in Real.

They blamed the three officials for tolerating logging in Sierra Madre.

The group submitted the petition to Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes on Monday.

"Although Secretary Reyes did not give his commitment, we could sense that he sincerely listened to us. The fate of the Reina area and its people is now in the hands of Malacañang," said Catholic priest Pete Montallana, Task Force Sierra Madre chair, who led the group's delegation to the DENR.

Montallana said they learned that an hour before they submitted the petition, DENR top officials discussed the situation in Sierra Madre, particularly in northern Quezon.

Quezon Rep. Rafael Nantes has declared full support to the petition.

"All forms of logging in Sierra Madre should immediately stop. As long as the mountain is still being logged the people will continue to live in fear. Flash floods and landslides would always return like a thief in the night and wreak havoc ...," he said in a phone interview.

Lawyer Asis Perez, executive director of the Tanggol Kalikasan, a public environmental legal defense center, who was with the group, said continuous logging in the Sierra Madre would be the main agenda of the Sierra Madre Summit to be held in the coming days.

"There is a pressing need for all stakeholders to converge and talk to find a united approach to end the continuous forest destruction and start the rehabilitation process," Perez said.

The petitioners asked Ms Arroyo to cancel the Private Land Timber Permit of Green Circle Properties, owned by businessman Romeo Roxas, and the Integrated Forest Management Agreement of Bulacan-based logger Wilson Ng.

Both logging contracts cover hundreds of thousands of hectares in the Sierra Madre mountain ranges inside the territorial jurisdiction of General Nakar.

The petitioners asked Ms Arroyo to cancel all permits that allow logging in Sierra Madre.

They asked her to strictly prohibit the transport of logs and lumber from the area. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

### IN THE KNOW

The longest mountain range in the Philippines, the Sierra Madre is called the "backbone of Luzon." It has a total area of about 1.8 million hectares, straddling nine provinces in three regions—Northern, Central and Southern Luzon.

It holds 40 percent of the country's remaining old-growth forest, but not for long.

A 2001 Conservation International report said 46,622 cubic meters of timber from 857 hectares were taken annually. Logging also destroys old-growth forests at an average rate of 21,536 hectares a year.

The same report says 100,000 hectares are destroyed every year by timber poachers.

In 2004, timber volume brought down from the Sierra Madre was getting smaller and smaller. It meant only one thing, the DENR said: There are no more mature trees in the mountain. ***Kate Pedroso, PDI Research***

# Police say no politics behind murder charges filed vs Dumpits

BAUANG, LA UNION—THE TASK force that filed murder charges against La Union Rep. Tomas Dumpit for the killing of this town's election supervisor has disputed the claims of the lawmaker's family that the charges were politically motivated.

Supt. Pedro Ubaldo, Bauang police chief, said investigators only did their job when they filed the charges against Dumpit and eight others, including his daughter Tess Dumpit-Michelena, son Butch, a former police officer, and Vice Mayor Clyde Crispino of Caba town.

"No La Union politician motivated us in filing the case," Ubaldo told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

Ubaldo was reacting to a taped interview of Thelma Dumpit-Murillo, a TV show host and Dumpit's daughter, aired on Wednesday over Aksyon Radyo in San Fernando City in La Union.

Murillo said the case was "a grand desire to demolish my father's name" because the lawmaker planned to run for governor in next year's elections.

"How can it be politically motivated when it was their men (the Dumpits) who were caught and confessed to the killing?" Ubaldo said.

Felimon Asperin Jr., this town's election supervisor, was gunned down on Jan. 12 while he was about to board his L-300 van near the Bauang municipal library where he held office.

His killer escaped on a motorcycle driven by another man.

Ubaldo said Ares Alvarez Mato, the suspected gunman, and Dominador Retuma, the driver of the motorcycle, were former parolees who were recruited in Mindanao. *Peter La. Julian, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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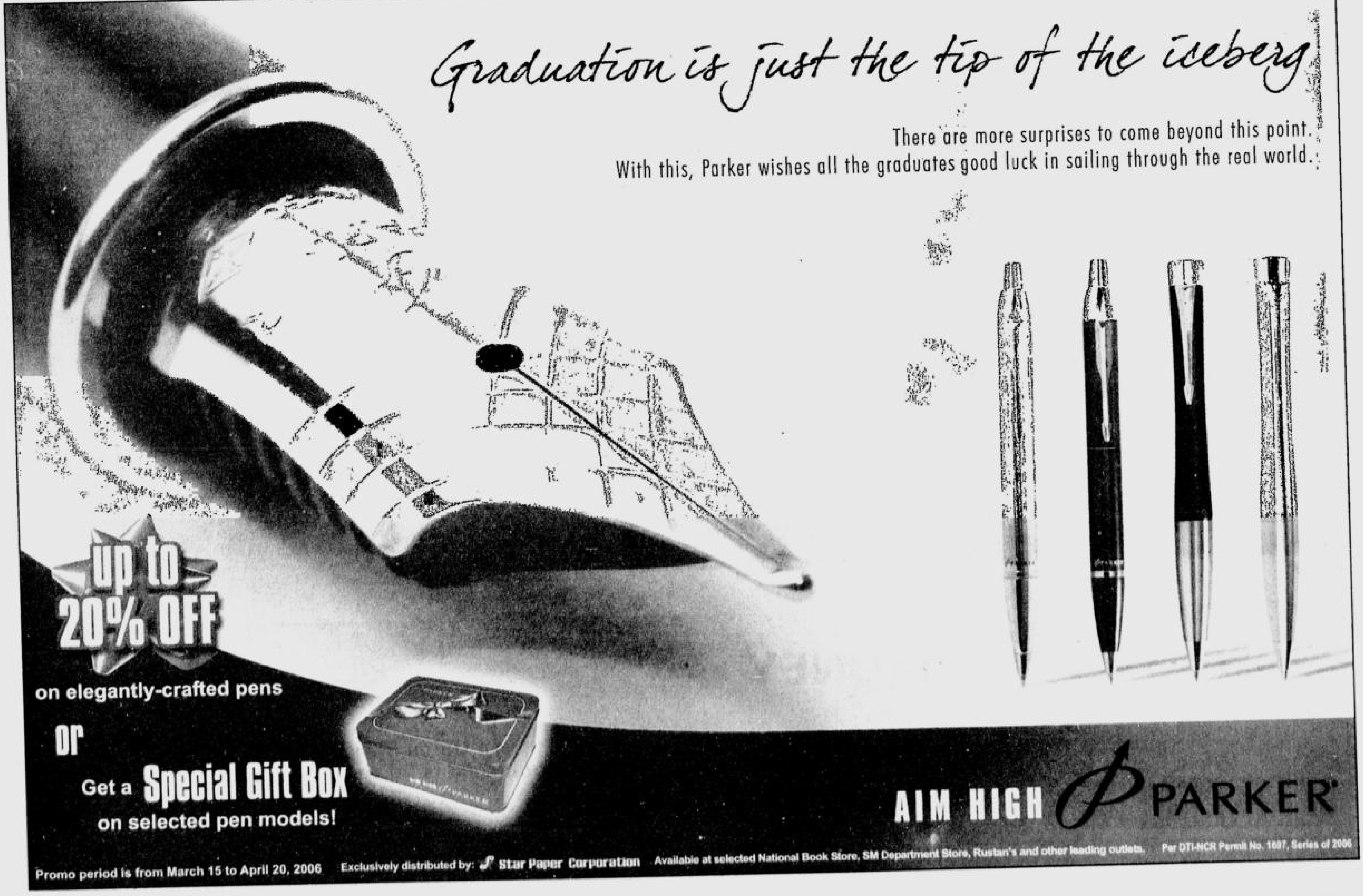

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# Catanduanes asks GMA: Stop power rate hike

VIRAC, CATANDUANES—LEADers of 31 sectoral organizations in this island-province have appealed to President Macapagal-Arroyo to defer next month's implementation of a 52-percent increase in the cost of electricity sold by the National Power Corp.

Their petition was brought by Gov. Leandro Verceles Jr. to Malacañang on Thursday. It has the signatures of more than 33,000 consumers.

According to the petition, the majority of the 215,000 people in Catanduanes were still reeling from the effects of higher prices of goods brought about by the imposition of the 12-percent value-added tax and successive fuel price increases.

The consumers questioned the so-called affordability index used by the Napocor to set the new rates, claiming it was simply based on an "unofficial" National Statistics Office report.

They said the majority of them might not be able to afford the new power rates, raising the specter of massive power disconnection.

"The cost of doing business in Catanduanes is already very prohibitive," they said, "and increasing electric rates will be an added blow to its faltering economy."

Catanduanes remains a fourth-class province (annual income: P70 million-P120 million), with most of its 11 towns still classified as fifth-class (annual income: P7 million-P13 million).

The local electric cooperative is also against the new rate, describing it as a "glaring violation" of the spirit and intent of the Electric Power Industry Reform Act, which Congress passed to pave the way for affordable electric rates in the country.

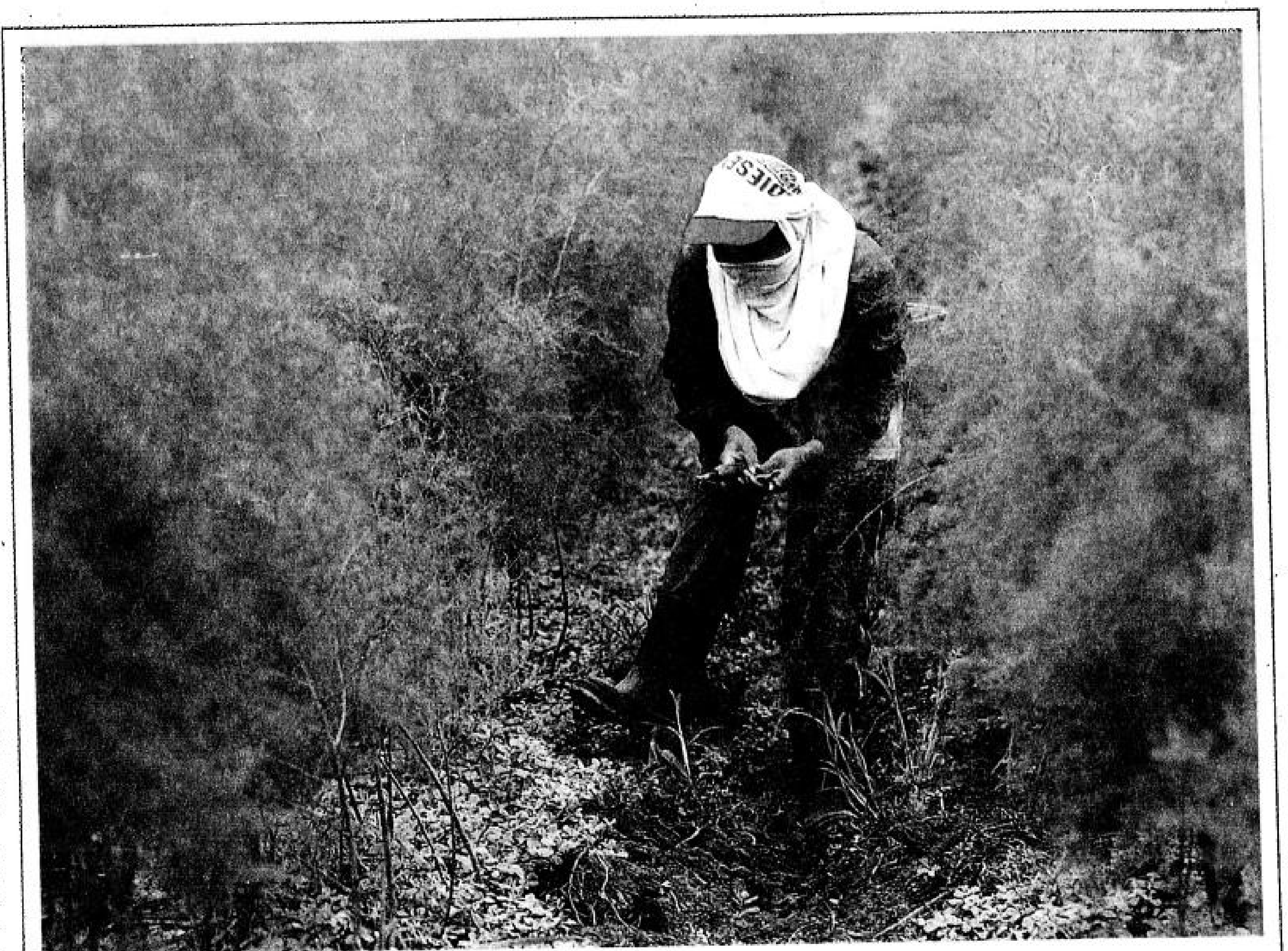
Starting this month, the Napocor is expected to bill the First Catanduanes Electric Cooperative Inc. (Ficelco) the approved basic energy charge of P5.6404 per kilowatt-hour. The current rate is P3.7064.

The new rate, which will appear in consumers' billings in May, is due to the Energy Regulatory Commission's approval of the Napocor's application of the Socially Acceptable Generation Rate (SAGR) for 14 "missionary areas" served by the NPC Small Power Utilities Group (SPUG).

The other small islands covered by the power rate increases include Marinduque, Masbate, Occidental Mindoro, Oriental Mindoro, Palawan, Romblon, Tablas, Bantayan, Camotes, Siquijor, Basilan, Tawi-tawi and Sulu.

During a series of hearings, ERC officials met vehement opposition from local cooperatives and multisectoral organizations. The agency, however, ruled in Napocor's favor on Dec. 16, 2005.

In its findings and evaluation of the petition, the ERC said the power rate increase would allow a new power provider to recover costs and have a reasonable return on investment. *Fernan Gianan, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*



LYN RILLON/PDI PHOTO

**GREEN SHOOTS**
**A worker checks for new asparagus sprouts in a farm in Tupi, South Cotabato. An asparagus plant is productive for up to 10 years, with a hectare yielding about 43 kilograms of asparagus. Workers harvest the sprouts daily and cut them to fit buyers' requirements.**

# Leyte lawyers vow to join protests vs signature bid

TACLOBAN CITY—THE PRESIDENT of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP) in Leyte said his group would join the opposition to moves to amend the Constitution through a people's initiative.

Lawyer Alberto Hidalgo, president of the 800-strong IBP-Leyte, said amending the Charter through a people's initiative was a futile exercise because of the absence of an enabling law for such an undertaking.

"That signature campaign is illegal as there is no enabling law passed and approved by Congress for such campaign as a way of amending the Constitution," he said.

"Certainly, our group will join groups or individuals who will question its legality before the Supreme Court," he added.

Proponents of the people's initiatives are aiming to gather the signatures of at least three percent of all registered voters in every congressional district, which the law requires for the initiative to prosper.

Hidalgo echoed the sentiment of a number of critics, calling the signature campaign as a government initiative, not a people's initiative.

"It was so obvious that the government was behind the gathering of the signatures ... local (elected) officials were all over (the place) just to ensure that they could gather the (required) signatures," Hidalgo said.

Leyte Gov. Jericho Petilla admitted to the INQUIRER that he gave P3,000 to all barangay chairs in the province as "mobilization fund" during the March 25 barangay assemblies, where the signature campaign was launched. *Joey Gabieta, PDI Visayas Bureau*

## ROUNDUP

### Payroll snatching foiled

BAGUIO CITY—Police arrested a man who tried to snatch a woman's bag containing P950,000 in payroll of the Armed Forces of the Philippines Savings and Loans Association Inc. (AFPSLAI) on Tuesday. Police said Carolina Ocasion, 44, an AFPSLAI employee at Camp Allen here, had just left the Philippine National Bank and was about to cross Session Road when the suspect Alberto Mogamog, 26, grabbed her bag. Two traffic policemen chased Mogamog and recovered the bag. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

### Rebels deny use of banned land mines

BUTUAN CITY—The National Democratic Front (NDF) in Mindanao has denied allegations that the New People's Army (NPA) is using banned land mines. Reacting to earlier accusations of Akbayan Party-list Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales, NDF spokesperson Jorge Madlos, alias Ka Orls, denied the allegation but admitted that NPA forces in Mindanao were using "command-detonated" land mines. *Ma. Kristina Cassion, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

### Worker held for vault heist

GANTI LANG YUN!

COTABATO CITY—Police on Monday arrested a former employee of Sugni Superstore here, who was suspected of fleeing with P1.6 million from the store's vault last week. Christopher Leproso was arrested inside a hotel in Davao City, according to Supt. Peraco Macacua, city police director. Macacua said Leproso had been hiding for several days. Leproso, Macacua said, admitted to the crime. Leproso said he took the money "to get even" because he was not being paid his salary. Mike Khemani, Sugni owner, denied the claim. Leproso said he gave part of the loot to relatives and former co-employees. He said he still had about P800,000 when police arrested him. But Macacua said the money turned over to the city police was only about P300,000. *Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

### Civilian vigilance pays off

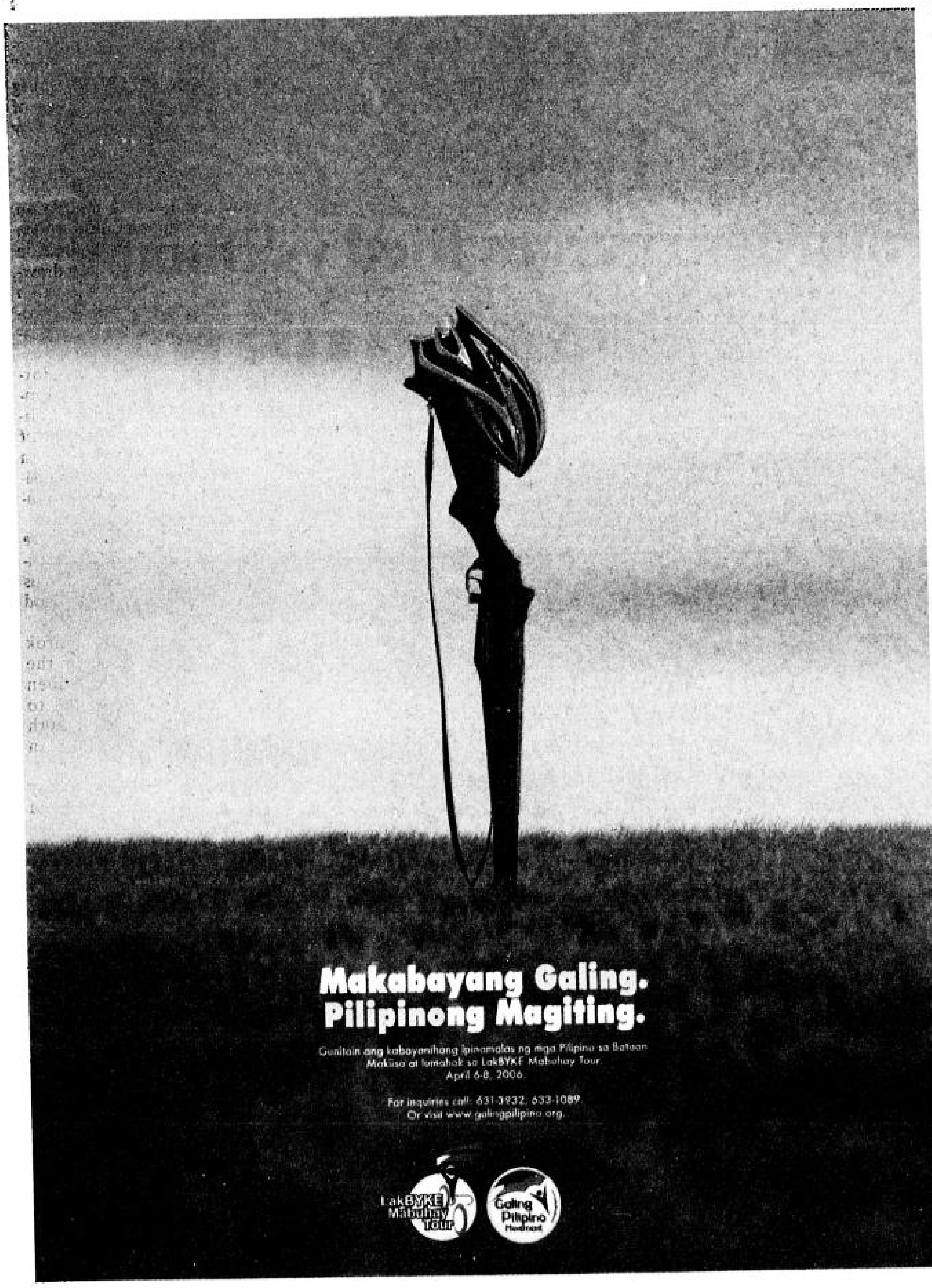
COTABATO CITY—Civilian vigilance paid off in a Muslim community in Maguindanao and helped police arrest three suspected motorcycle thieves on Thursday. Ben Abbas, village chief of Bugawas in Datu Odin Sinsuat town, said residents tipped him off about the presence of suspicious-looking men in a motorcycle. Abbas said he immediately sent a text message to the police. Chief Insp. Fatima Malao, Datu Odin Sinsuat town police chief, said policemen were immediately deployed to the village and accosted the suspects. She said the suspects were taken in for questioning after they failed to present any document for the motorcycle. Malao said the three—Elmo Damdamain and Rustom and Saudi, both surnamed Mokalam—admitted to have stolen the motorcycle that was taken from a pastor in Tacurong City. *Charlie Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

### US bridge project inaugurated

US AMBASSADOR Kristie Kenney joined Basilan Gov. Wahab Akbar and other provincial officials on Tuesday in inaugurating a bridge built with development assistance from the US government. The bridge in Barangay Cabcaban in Sumisip, replaces a flood-prone spillway on the Basilan Circumferential Road that was often blocked by floodwaters. The bridge, according to a US Embassy press statement, was a joint project of the US Agency for International Development (USAID), under its Growth with Equity program, the Mindanao Economic Development Council, the province, and the municipality of Sumisip.

### Misamis high school reunion

THE MISAMIS Occidental National High School Alumni Association will hold its third grand reunion and homecoming on its 65th anniversary on April 17, starting at 8 a.m., at the school quadrangle in Oroquieta City. "Do not let this opportunity pass as this is a special occasion to meet again classmates, friends and teachers and renew our commitment and loyalty to our alma mater," said alumni president Marcelino Rojo in a statement. The school's Class '76 will also hold a reunion at Rhovic's Place on April 16. For inquiries, members were told to contact Gloria Yatoc-Sapar (09192946325) or Jed Bulawan (09205944870) or e-mail to eugene_labadan@pal.com.ph.



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# Illegal gambling surfaces with STL in Baguio

BAGUIO CITY—UNDERGROUND gambling financiers here are testing unlicensed games using the rules of the Small Town Lottery (STL) and the defunct Bingo 2-Ball to see if they can operate undetected, alongside with the government-run STL.

The tests were conducted in March, according to several lottery card dealers, who claimed that they lost income on the day the alleged illegal numbers game were run.

But the city police have no record of any gambling operations undertaken in March, except for a project by barangay officials to raise community funds through bingo and other barangay-monitored games, said SPO2 Viyo Hidalgo, police spokesperson.

Mayor Braulio Yaranon and the city council stopped the barangay-led games, saying village councils had no authority to issue gaming permits.

Several policemen, however, said they heard about plans to convert the illegal numbers game "jueteng" into a Bingo 2-Ball variation that was profitable in its short run here under the supervision of a former actor-politician and a former jueteng operator.

The Bingo 2-Ball operation works on the same principles as jueteng, and was facilitated here by former jueteng bet collectors and contractors of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office in 2000.

Only the PCSO's lotto and two bingo parlors are operating in the city.

"We do not know if the financiers have been convinced that an [illegal] STL will work, but we wanted people to know about these tests because we are worried about unhealthy competition," a lotto dealer told the INQUIRER.

"I earn P500 a day from sales and from commission, so I am worried because [the legitimate] STL will cut my earnings by half. But if there are illegal STL and Bingo 2-Ball operations around, we will starve," he said.

Yaranon, who ran on an anti-corruption and an anti-gambling platform in the 2004 elections, is opposing STL operations in the city.

In a press conference last week, Yaranon said his position on STL had been clear from the start.

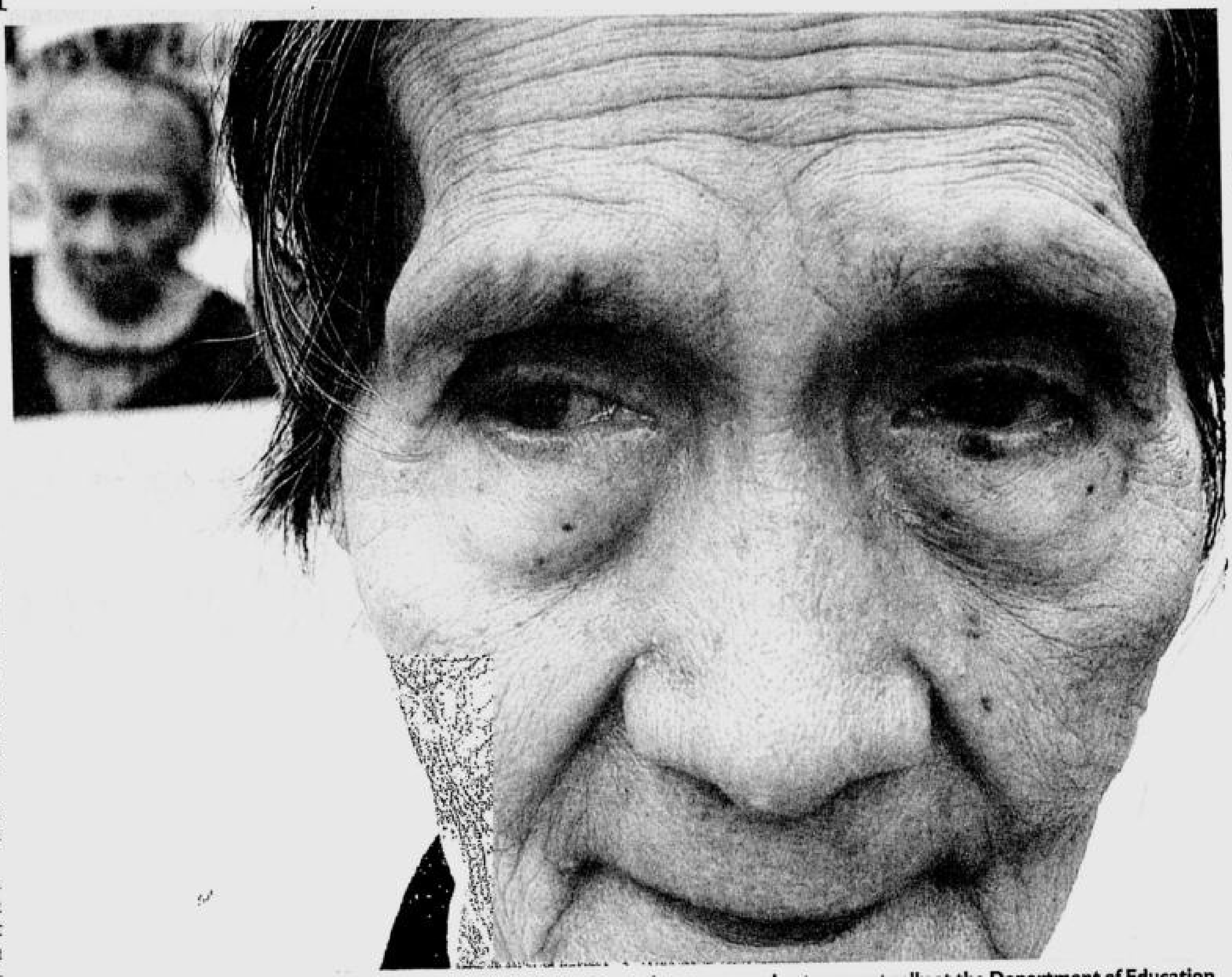
Yaranon said he was against a local STL franchise and "anyone who believes the law is on his side [when he operates STL here] can go to court."

He also said the city had already denied applications for new lotto outlets sponsored by the PCSO.

Yaranon said the government denied a permit application for bingo operations in Camp John Hay despite the fact that it would have been a fund-raising activity. *Vincent Cabreza and Donna Demetillo, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

# Victims of Japanese war crimes etch memories through songs

**By Tonette Orejas**
*PDI Central Luzon Desk*



VICTIMS of Japanese atrocities and rape pursue the fight for justice as these women do at a recent rally at the Department of Education. They have since composed songs to immortalize their ordeal in the hands of Japanese soldiers during World War II. JOAN BONDOC/PDI PHOTO

CANDABA, PAMPANGA—THE last time that 30 or so elderly women from the remote village of Barangay Mapanique here gathered in a mall in the City of San Fernando to launch Maita Gomez's book "From the Depths of Silence (Voices of Women Survivors of War)," a young politico in the audience thought they were an ordinary choir. Their only claim to novelty might have been their vintage *baro't saya*.

When the old women finished three songs capped by the finale titled after their group's name, the Malaya Lola (Free Grandmothers), the wrong impression vanished.

Those in the audience that grew to 200, mostly shoppers who stopped to listen, clapped vigorously, held back tears or did not care to hold them back at all.

Gomez herself was amazed, moved even, because the lyrics and melodies of the songs told the horrors of World War II in plain yet unequivocal terms.

She sensed no feigning in the way the old women sang the songs from life.

"*Siyempre, karanasan namin yun sa buhay, hindi namin yun makakalimutan. Yang mga awit namin, parang armas namin yan* (Of course, we sang of our experiences in life that we couldn't forget. Our songs are like weapons)," Isabelita Vinuya, 72, said.

Their songs now numbered 10, composed since the 90 survivors of the mass rape by Japanese soldiers broke their silence in 1996 or after 52 years. Only 62 are still alive, half of them weak or ill.

The "Malaya Lola Song," made up of 18 stanzas, told of the first 24 hours of the bombing, burning and pillage of Mapanique on Nov. 23, 1944 and the massacre of menfolk in the village at the boundary of Candaba and San Ildefonso, Bulacan.

What exactly went on at the Ilusorio mansion-turned-garrison, the Bahay na Pula, was revealed in this stanza:

*"At nang magsawa na kami'y pinawalan*
*Halos ang hininga'y ibig nang pumanaw*
*Sa laki ng hirap na pinagdaanan*
*Sira na ang isip pati na katawan."*

They not only speak of the abuse. In another composition, Bulgar, they want to see no repeat of it.

*"Ito ang dapat malaman*
*Ng buong sandaigdigan*
*Pagkat ito'y isang araw*
*Sa day hang lapastangan*
*Kung hindi mo dadalain*
*Ang ganitong karanasan*
*Marami pa ang luluha*
*Kung dumating iyang araw."*

Their appeal for justice through a formal apology and reparation from the government of Japan is an overarching theme in the songs. At least 28 of them have died since they began the fight, Vinuya said.

In "Malaon nang Naghihintay," they cried out:

*"Mga Lola'y matanda na*
*Katawa'y mahihina na.*
*Kailangan nila ngayon sa*
*Katawa'y pang-suporta.*
*Kung ito'y magtatagal*
*Mga Lola'y iilan na*
*Katarunga'y di na nakamit*
*Ng mga Lolang nagdusa."*

Vinuya said the songs did them well. In letting out rage, they heal themselves. In telling the tragedy, they show that wars do nothing good to humanity, especially women and children.

In exposing the sexual abuses, they gather support from fellow Filipinos and international peace advocates.

Activists in Japan help them out by campaigning for a law granting the demands of comfort women and victims of mass rape.

Others have brought the issue to international war tribunals.

The way the old women compose their songs is another thing to marvel at.

All without formal musical background, their artistry is largely through improvisation learned from the folk tradition of "pangangaluluwa" on All Souls' Day.

Some melodies are borrowed from songs of the anti-Japanese guerrilla army Hukbalahap or the Kapampangan folk singer Totoy Bato.

Composing comes easy, said Vinuya. One sitting for her, Pilar Galang, Maria Quilantang and Januaria Garcia—all self-trained poets—was enough to produce a rough piece. It is when they all gather that the polishing is done to perfection, they said.

But don't ask for musical notes or chords for there are no such annotations.

"Everything is in our memory," Vinuya said, laughing heartily at that feat of being able to remember the compositions.

They have sung their songs in international conferences, rallies, book launchings and forums.

Said Galang, 70: "We will never get tired of singing about what we have gone through. How can the present generation know about the horrors of war?"

# Pampanga city to hold Lent street play for 51st time

**By Tonette Orejas**
*PDI Central Luzon Desk*

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—THE real-life crucifixion in Barangay San Pedro Cutud, this city's second top tourist-drawing event after the annual giant lantern festival, will take a back seat to the Via Crusis (The Way of the Cross), a homegrown street play running on its 51st year on Good Friday.

Fernando Santos, chief of the city tourism office, said the Holy Week events in Cutud would this time give more focus to the reenactment of Jesus Christ's route to his death at Calvary and thus provide spiritual experience to devotees.

"Like last year, we have promoted the events as a form of spiritual retreat, not as a festival, " Santos said on local cable TV show "Talking Points" that tackled the diminishing solemnity in the observance of the Lenten season by Catholics.

## Tourist attraction

The traditions of crucifixion and flagellation in Cutud, which were not viewed by the outside world in the 1950s, began drawing crowds in the 1980s when the Department of Tourism promoted them as summer destinations.

These have attracted foreign and local visitors, a number of whom confirmed in interviews that they came out of curiosity and not to share in the spiritual journey of the villagers of mostly drivers and laborers.

The villagers themselves are struggling to preserve the traditions amid crowds that count as many as 30,000 at noon on Good Friday.

All penitents head for Purok Cuatro, their version of the Calvary, according to Ruben Enaje, who will be nailed to the cross for the 20th time—the longest record in the practice.

"My vow has strengthened my faith in God," the 45-year-old house painter said.

He began his vow in 1986 right after surviving a fall from a three-story building without scratches or broken bones.

Shunning spectators, Rolando Ocampo undergoes the crucifixion at 3 p.m. on Good Friday, when everybody has left.

## Street play

The Via Crusis, written by the late poet Rolando Navarro, was first staged on the streets of Cutud in 1955, his grandson Allan Navarro told the INQUIRER.

"It was my grandfather's own form of penance. He wrote the script, directed the play and spent for everything, including costumes," the younger Navarro recalled. His father has been directing the play in the last 20 years.

The original script, typewritten in bold font, is in the safekeeping of the archdiocese museum, Navarro said. What he has is a reproduction. Each sheet, covered by plastic dulled by years of use, is read on the prompter during performance.

The four-line verses are in old, lyrical Kapampangan.

Residents in the community, mostly teenagers, volunteer to play the roles.

The Kristo part is reserved for Enaje.

# N. Mindanao clash leaves 3 rebs dead, says Army

DAVAO CITY—SOLDIERS AND communist rebels clashed anew in Northern Mindanao on Wednesday, the military said yesterday.

Maj. Jose Maria Cuerpo, chief of the military's 5th Civil Relations Group based here, said three rebels were killed in the 45-minute gunfight in Barangay San Mariano in Loreto, Agusan del Sur.

Cuerpo said the bodies had not been identified. He said more rebels could have been killed.

He said soldiers were on patrol when they chanced upon an undetermined number of rebels at about 10:45 a.m.

Cuerpo said the government did not suffer any casualty during the exchange of gunfire.

"Based on the reports from the populace, many (bodies) were seen being carried by the fleeing NPAs," Cuerpo said.

The military report could not be independently verified as of press time.

Cuerpo said that during mopping up operations, the soldiers also recovered assorted firearms and communist documents.

He also announced the arrest of a suspected NPA leader by police and military agents in Surigao City.

Edgar Dagpin, alias Ka Rejoy, was ordered arrested by Judge Vicente Luna Jr., of the Northeastern Mindanao Regional Court in Tandag, Surigao del Sur.

Dagpin is the alleged leader of the NPA's Front Committee 30 under the Northeastern Mindanao Regional Committee (NEMRC).

Cuerpo said the report did not specify the charges against the suspect.

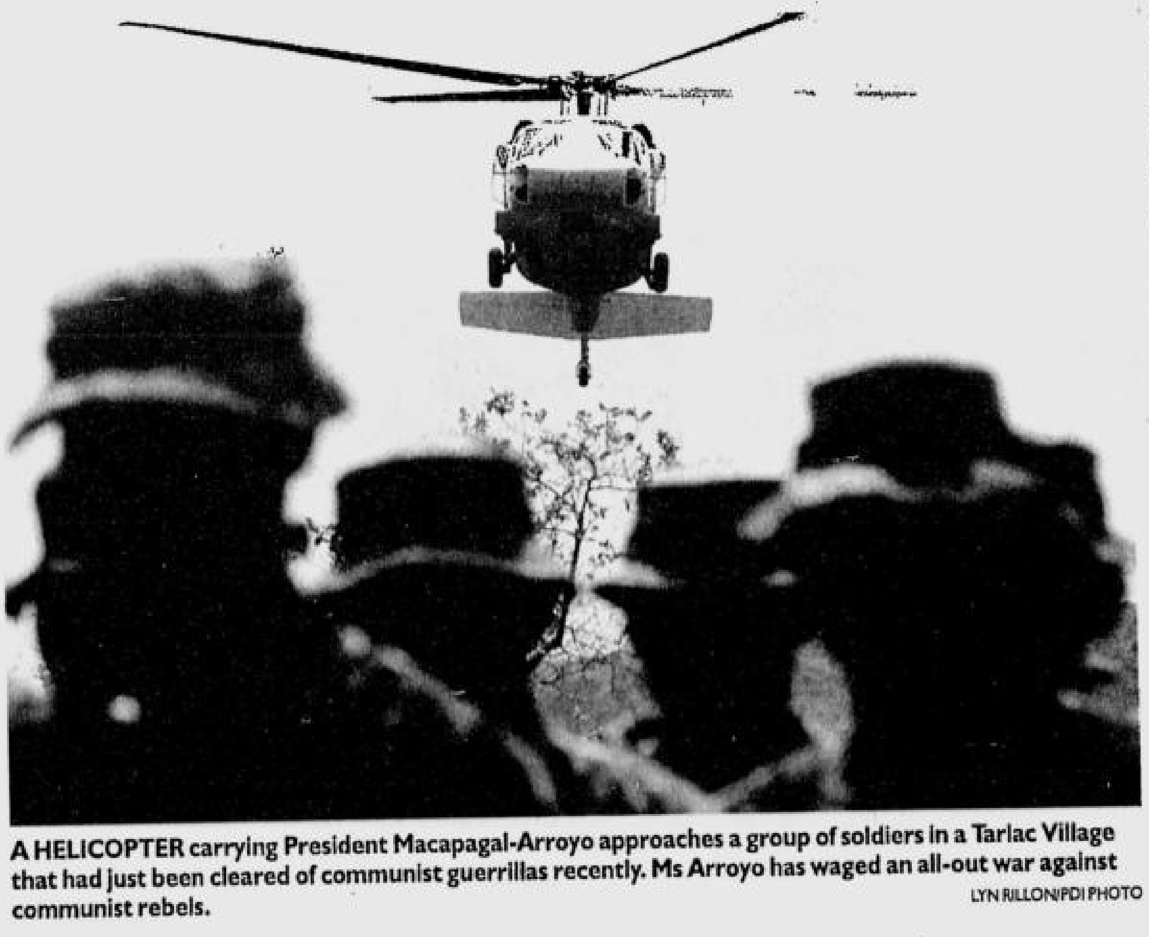
He said the NPA leader was captured in Sitio Camp Kantere in Barangay Libuag on Hipdoc Island, off Surigao City.

Col. Antonio Amodia, head of the 404th Infantry Battalion based in Mawab, Compostela Valley, told the INQUIRER that his unit was ordered to pursue NPA rebels believed to be hiding in the hinterlands of the province.

"We were given specific targets and so we launched an intensified campaign against them," Amodia said.

The government's renewed campaign against the communists came in the wake of the collapse of peace talks between Malacañang and the communist-led National Democratic Front (NDF).

The NDF withdrew from the negotiations after the United States and the European Union tagged the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), its mother organization, as a terrorist organization.



A HELICOPTER carrying President Macapagal-Arroyo approaches a group of soldiers in a Tarlac Village that had just been cleared of communist guerrillas recently. Ms Arroyo has waged an all-out war against communist rebels. LYN RILLON/PDI PHOTO

The CPP has been waging a war for the establishment of a Maoist government in the Philippines for over three decades now.

Its armed wing, the NPA, has been waging a protracted guerrilla campaign against the military and has been heavily criticized for its use of land mines.

On Sunday, two NPA guerrillas were killed and two soldiers were wounded in another clash near the town of San Isidro on Mindanao's southeast coast.

The NPA is the 8,000-member military arm of the Communist Party of the Philippines. *Dennis Jay Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau, with AFP*

## Tale of two countries

| Philippines | | Thailand |
|---|---|---|
| Manila | **Capital** | Bangkok |
| Republic | **Government** | Constitutional Monarchy |
| President Gloria Macapagal-Aroyo | **Chief of State** | His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej (also the Head of the Armed Forces, Upholder of the Buddhist religion and Upholder of all religions) |
| In Southeast Asia, an archipelago of 7,107 islands. | **Location** | Landlocked country in Southeast Asia, bordering Laos and Cambodia to the east, the Gulf of Thailand and Malaysia to the south, and the Andaman Sea and Myanmar to the west. |
| 299,764 sq. km. | **Land Area** | 514,000 sq. km. |
| 87.9 million | **Population** | 65.4 million |
| Catholics-82.9%;<br>Protestants-5.4%;<br>Islam-4.6%<br>Philippine Independent Church-2.6%;<br>Iglesia ni Cristo-2.3% | **Religion** | Buddhist-94.6%;<br>Muslim-4.6%;<br>Christian-0.7%;<br>others-0.1%<br>(2000 census) |
| 92.6% | **Literacy rate** | 92.6% |
| $451.3 billion | **GDP (CIA World Factbook, 2005 est.)** | $545.8 billion |
| $5,100 | **GDP per capita (2005 est)** | $8,300 |
| Timber, petroleum, nickel, cobalt, silver, gold, salt, copper | **Natural resources** | Tin, rubber, natural gas, tungsten, tantalum, timber, lead, fish, gypsum, lignite, fluorite, arable land |
| Electronics assembly, garments, footwear, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, wood products, food processing, petroleum refining, fishing | **Industries** | Tourism, textiles and garments, agricultural processing, beverages, tobacco, cement, light manufacturing like jewelry, electric appliances and components, computers and parts, integrated circuits, furniture, plastics, automobiles and automotive parts, tungsten and tin producer |
| Calls for Arroyo to resign followed the exposé in May last year of the involvement of her husband, son and brother-in-law in the illegal numbers game "jueteng" and after discs of her alleged conversations with Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano were presented by the press secretary. She has been accused of rigging the 2004 election results. But an impeachment complaint lodged against her did not prosper. Amidst persistent coup rumors, she declared a state of national emergency on Feb. 24, 2006 and lifted it after a week. | **Recent political crisis** | Massive rallies calling for Thaksin to resign came after the report last January that five of his relatives did not pay 60 billion baht (Bt) in taxes after they sold their 1.49 billion shares in media and telecommunications giant Shin Corp. to the Cedar Holdings Company Ltd. and Aspen Holdings Company Ltd., subsidiaries of Temasek, a state-owned investment firm in Singapore. To appease his critics, Thaksin called for a snap election. |

Sources: CIA World Factbook, official website of the Republic of the Philippines, official website for tourism in Thailand, website of the Thai embassy in Washington DC

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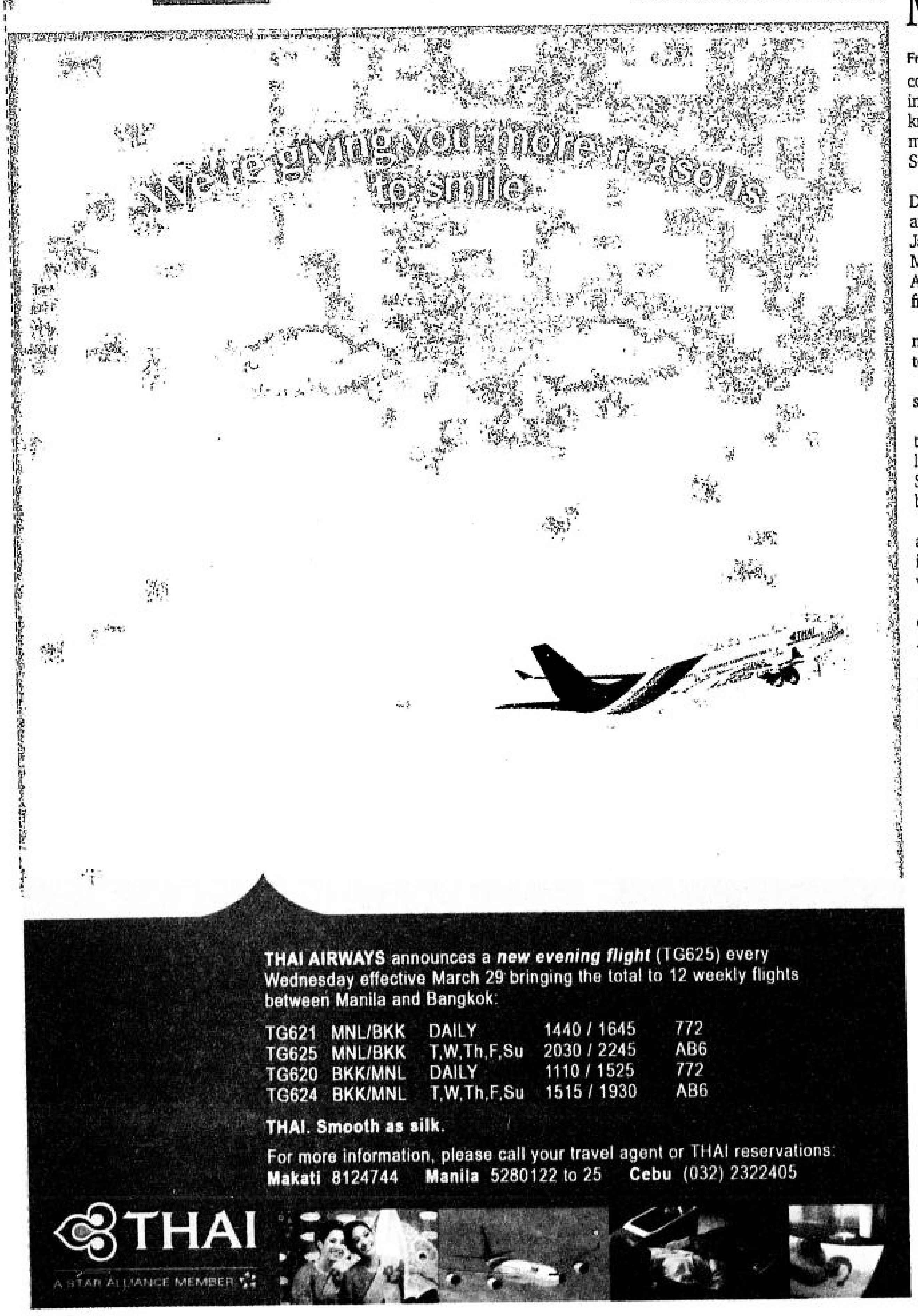

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**MENTORING THE MENTOR:** President Arroyo is still an avowed admirer of "Thaksinomics," the Palace says. Thaksin hosted Apec leaders in October 2003.
AFP

# Malacañang to 'Senate 5' ...

From page A1

compare it to the parliamentary system in place in Thailand. It is a sad reflection of their civic knowledge that they have no clue how a parliamentary system of government works," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said at a briefing.

Five senators—Senate President Franklin Drilon, Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel, and Senators Panfilo Lacson, Jinggoy Estrada and Jamby Madrigal—launched the "Gloria Resign Movement" on the President's 59th birthday on April 5, a day after Thaksin abruptly resigned from office to end the political crisis in Thailand.

The so-called Senate 5 said they would go on a nationwide road show during their Lenten break to drum up support for the resign movement.

At a rally on the steps of the Senate, the senators urged Ms Arroyo to do a Thaksin.

Thaksin had come under increasing pressure to quit since January after his family's $1.9-billion tax-free sale of its 49.6-percent stake in Shin Corp., the telecom giant Thaksin founded before entering office, to a Singapore state firm.

Critics alleged the sale involved insider trading and complained that a key national asset was now in a foreign government's hands. They staged weeks of protests demanding that he resign.

Thaksin said he was resigning to end the crisis out of respect for King Bhumibol Adulyadej in his 60th year on the throne.

On-and-off street protests in the Philippines over the past months are demanding that Ms Arroyo step down because of allegations that she stole the 2004 presidential election. She denied any wrongdoing.

Speaker Jose de Venecia said the President would not do a Thaksin.

De Venecia said Ms Arroyo, who was the principal guest at yesterday's 18th birthday celebration of the Speaker's deceased daughter KC at the Department of Social Welfare and Development, said that unlike Thaksin, the President was elected by the people in a presidential election.

"Thaksin is like Sonia Gandhi in India. By resigning, he has taken the high political ground and the high moral ground. That is OK because Thailand has a parliamentary form of government," he said.

Gandhi resigned on March 23 as chair of the National Advisory Council, which advises the ruling Congress Party, to preempt the opposition's trying to create an impression that the party was using Parliament and the government to protect her.

The Speaker said the President and former President Fidel Ramos were with him in pushing for a change from the presidential to a parliamentary system because the latter had a formula for effecting a swift change in leadership.

"We want a parliamentary system because there is a mechanism, a formula for the prime minister to dissolve the parliament and to call for a snap election," De Venecia said.

### Flip-flopping

Bunye lashed out at the Senate 5 for flip-flopping on the proposed shift to a parliamentary form of government.

On one hand, the President's critics say a parliamentary form of government is unsuitable for the country. On the other, they cite the Thai parliamentary setup as a model for the country, according to the press secretary.

"Once again our critics are engaged in sweeping hypocrisy. No wonder they can't make a positive contribution to the debate on Charter change," Bunye said.

He said the critics could not have it both ways: Support a parliamentary form of government when it suits their argument, and deny it when it doesn't.

"That warped logic accurately sums up the opposition. They don't know whether they are coming or going," he said.

Bunye dismissed the senators' rally at the Senate as a recycled cause of the same old critics.

### 'Thaksinomics'

Despite Thaksin's fall from grace, Bunye said the President was standing by her statement praising the Thai prime minister for his "Thaksinomics" that transformed Thailand into one of Asia's most vibrant economies.

"The statements of the President on Thaksin are all on record. The concept of one town, one product is something that is unique, something that was formulated by the prime minister and it has apparently worked," Bunye said.

Thaksin visited the Philippines three years ago upon the prodding of the President, a self-confessed admirer of his seamless blending of business and political savvy.

In his speech before a local business forum, Thaksin said his "Thaksinomics" was founded on political stability and on ensuring that the poor were given the chance to share in a country's economic success—two factors Ms Arroyo has wanted to emulate in the Philippines.

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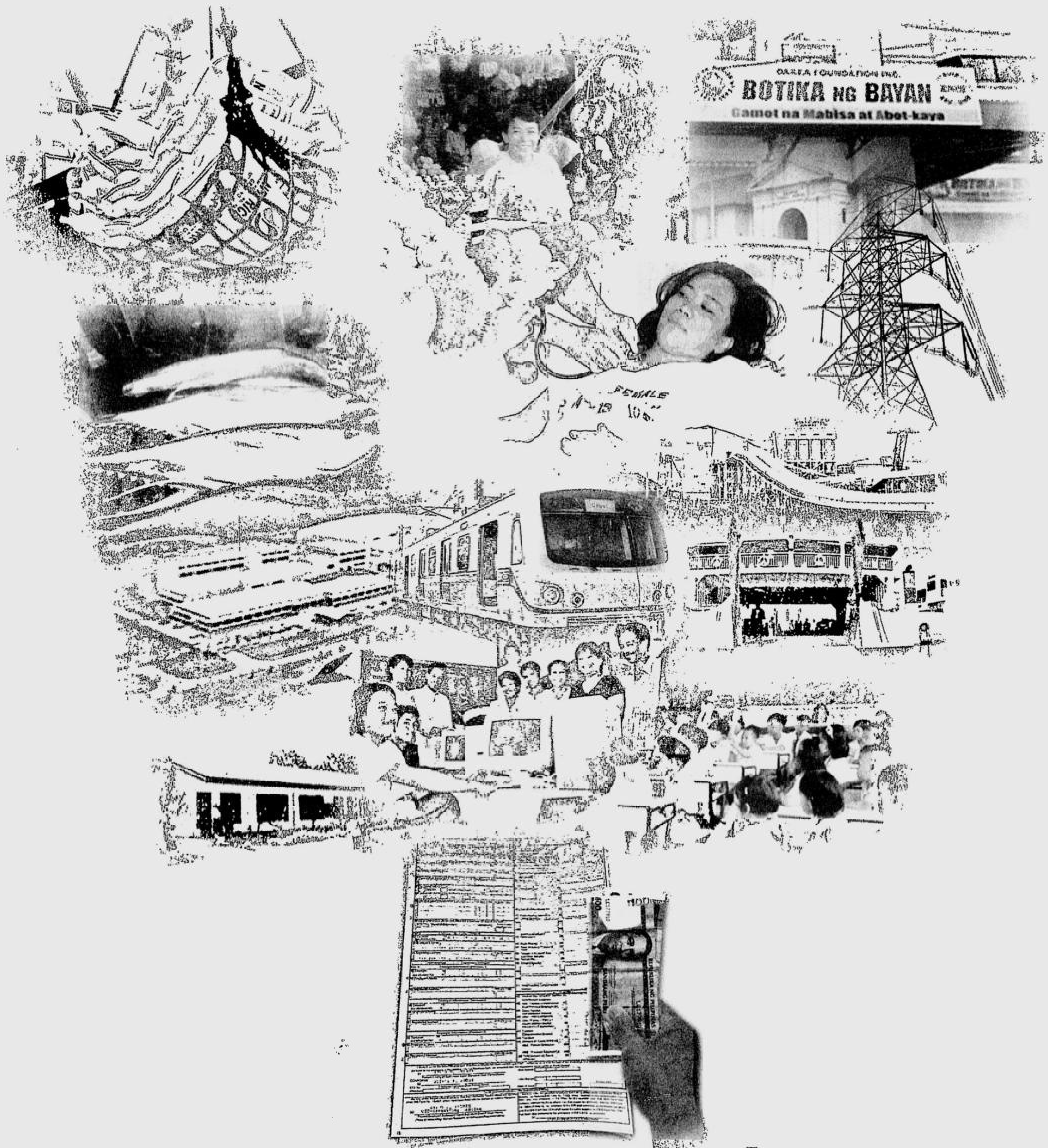
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## WHAT'S INSIDE

- **Pacquiao sues firm for using name without permission in ads** /A24
- **North Tollway patrol members hurt in road accident** /A24
- **Number coding suspension draws flak on Day 1** /A24

# 4 Pateros cops dismissed for extortion

## Same tactic of fabricating evidence used against second victim

**By Tarra V. Quismundo**

FOUR ANTI-DRUG OPERATIVES OF the Pateros Police Station were dismissed from the service for extortion and planting of evidence.

The National Police Commission (Napolcom) found SPO2 Arthur Velasco, Police Officers 1 Vinboy Pacamarra, Efren Patchicoy and Antonio Zinampan guilty of grave offenses against the badge.

They were found guilty of planting two sachets of shabu in the house of drug suspect Dennis Gonzales' live-in partner.

The offenses were related to a questionable anti-drug operation the four conducted in Barangay Sta. Ana, Pateros, identified as a drug hotspot, in 2003.

The four dismissed policemen were members of the Pateros Police Drug Enforcement Unit.

### Liable

The Napolcom Regional Appellate Board (RAB) First Division upheld a People's Law Enforcement Board (PLEB) finding that the men were liable for "serious irregularity in the performance of duty, dishonesty, and violation of the law."

The PLEB handles administrative complaints of civilians against policemen.

### No warrant

The Napolcom said the supposed anti-drug operation happened at 10 p.m. on Aug. 5, 2003.

Velasco's team searched Gonzales' house without a warrant.

When the group learned that the suspect was not home, they proceeded to the residence of his live-in partner, Maria Annaliza Encinar.

After failing to find the suspect, Velasco's team returned five minutes later showing a sachet containing P100 worth of shabu as evidence that Encinar also peddled illegal drugs.

The group took Encinar into custody and brought her to the Pateros Police Station, where she was asked P50,000 in exchange for charging her with a lesser offense.

### Demand reduced

But Encinar's family could only raise P3,000 even after the group reduced its demand to P30,000.

Encinar was then put in jail and released only after an investigation found that the case against her was fabricated.

The commission found that Velasco had used the same tactic a second time.

### Strike two

He was also found guilty of planting shabu and marked money, as he demanded P100,000 from another Barangay Sta. Ana resident, Diana de la Peña.

The second case was handled by the Napolcom RAB's Third Division.

Velasco's partners in the second questionable operation, Police Officers 1 Jovito Labin and Sherwin de Villa, were reprimanded and got one-month and two-month suspensions, respectively.

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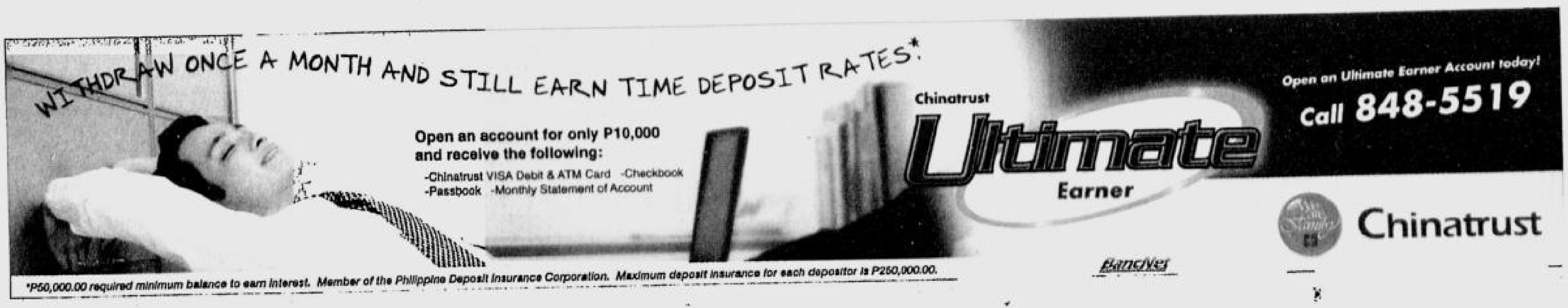

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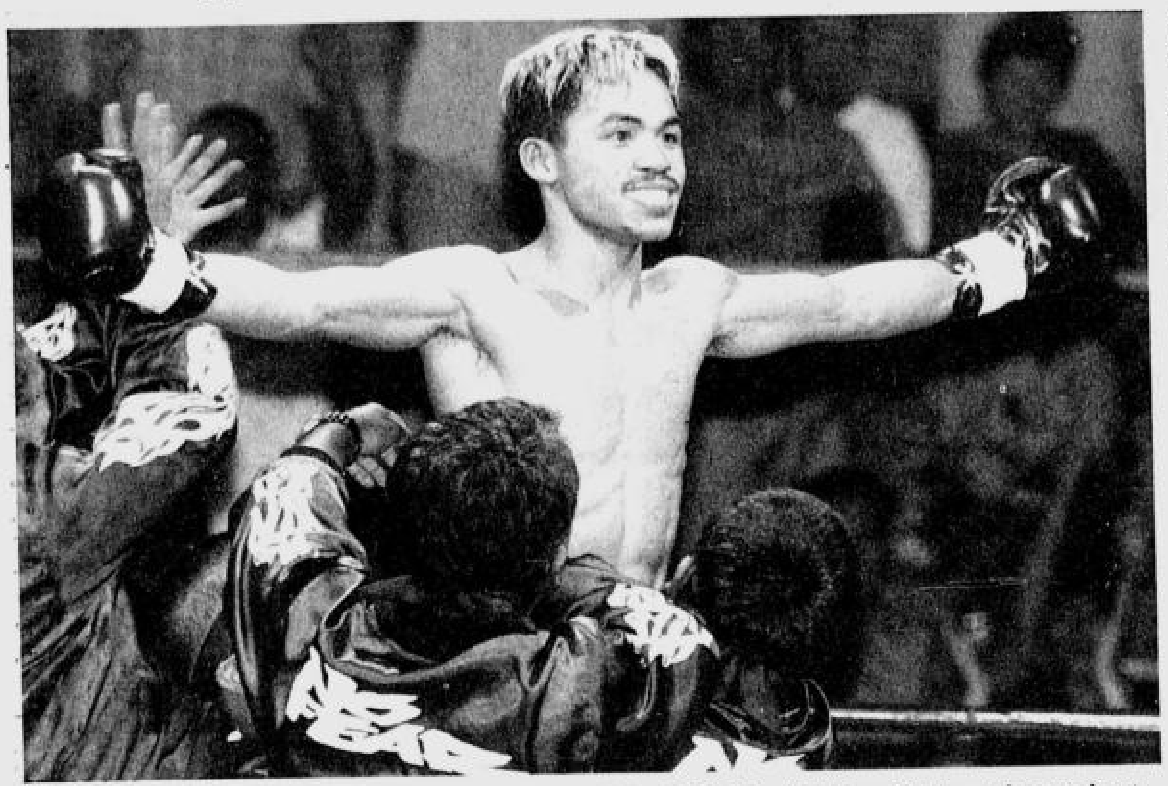
# Pacquiao wants P20 million for use of his name



THE CHAMP, also an endorser for giant firms like San Miguel, PLDT and McDonald's, is not happy about the "extra" publicity. VAL HANDUMON

**By DJ Yap**
**and Melissa de Quiros,** *Trainee*

BOXING CHAMPION MANNY Pacquiao is asking for P20 million from a distributor of "Magic Sing" videoke microphones, claiming his name was used without his permission.

The reigning World Boxing Council International super featherweight champion filed a complaint in the Quezon City prosecutor's office the other day against In-a-Jiffy Enterprise and G2K Corp., distributor of Wow Magic Sing, for violations of the Intellectual Property Code. Also named respondents were company officials Andres Sanchez and Daniel del Rosario.

The alleged unauthorized use of the boxer's name in promotional materials reportedly compromised his endorsement deal with a direct competitor of the distributor.

Pacquiao accused In-a-Jiffy and G2K with violation of Section 169 of the IPC, saying the companies falsely represented his "Para Sa 'yo ang Laban na 'to" album in advertisements published on Feb. 10 in three broadsheets, as well as in press releases and promo displays.

The ads showed the cover of Pacquiao's compact disc with a picture of him playing the guitar. Written below were the words: "Free! Manny Pacquiao 'Para Sa 'yo ang Laban na 'to' CD."

The ads claimed that the promotion was "in cooperation with" Star Records, Loverboy productions and Pacquiao-Camo records, producers of the boxer's album. According to Pacquiao, the catchphrase "Para Sa'yo... Libre 'to," was an obvious play on the title of his album.

"It tended to suggest my personal involvement in their product," Pacquiao said. He said the promotional materials were released while he was finalizing negotiations with Astra Group for the endorsement of its Extreme Magic Sing, a direct competitor of Wow Magic Sing, and almost cost him the endorsement contract.

On Feb. 22, Pacquiao's lawyer Rafael Aquino sent a demand letter to the firms asking for P20 million for the unauthorized use of his name. He also asked the companies to suspend all advertisements using his name.

In a reply dated Feb. 24, Faustino Madriaga, Jr., lawyer of In-a-Jiffy, said nothing in the press materials suggested that Pacquiao was endorsing the product.

Madriaga said his clients were not selling Pacquiao's album. "They are given free to customers," he said, adding that the companies got in touch with Star Records for the promotional materials.

But the boxer said there was no document showing the alleged authority given to In-a-Jiffy. "I never authorized them to publicly use my name," Pacquiao said.

## Patrol team hurt in road accident

FOUR EMPLOYEES OF THE Manila North Tollway Corp. (MNTC) were injured in an early morning vehicular accident yesterday on the North Luzon Expressway.

Benjamin A. Suzara, MNTC spokesperson, said the victims were Alvin Aquino, Christian Fuentes, Tony Seladia and Ernan Montes, members of the anti-overloading patrol team who are now confined at the Manila Central University Hospital in Caloocan City.

Suzara said the patrol car rolled over at least six times after the driver swerved to avoid a six-wheeler truck. *Nancy C. Carvajal*

## Traffic volume unchanged despite coding suspension

**By Tarra V. Quismundo**

THE NUMBER OF MOTOR VEHICLES on most Metro Manila streets seemed unchanged on the first day of the two-month number coding suspension.

This was reported yesterday by Traffic Operations Center Executive Director Angelito Vergel de Dios of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA).

MMDA proposed the lifting of the Unified Vehicular Volume Reduction Program (UVVRP) as it expected the long school break would reduce the number of vehicles plying the metropolis' roads. Vergel de Dios said traffic might be even lighter in subsequent days "because some repair work in Makati was finished."

The MMDA started implementing yesterday the resolution approved by a majority of the Metro Manila Council, the agency's policy-making body composed of metro mayors. The UVVRP will be suspended in the Metro, except in Makati City, until June 2

MMDA proposed the lifting, the first to be implemented while school is out, as it noted that vehicle volume on major roads in the Metro decreased by 30 percent during the long vacation.

The MMDA TOC's Traffic Engineering Center (TEC) is monitoring actual volume reduction on at least 20 major Metro Manila intersections for the duration of the suspension, TEC Planning and Design Division chief Neomie Recio said yesterday.

But some motorists expressed fears that the suspension could limit their mobility. Public utility vehicle drivers said it could mean reduced earnings.

Cab driver Oscar Santuile said taxi riders who would take a cab on "coding" days, could now use their cars throughout the week. With more cars on the road, the, streets would be jammed again, increasing travel time and reducing the number of trips he could make in one day. Tony Vytingco, a doctor in Mandaluyong City who lives in Cavite, also prefers keeping the UVVRP in place. "I think the suspension is only creating confusion. Traffic will only get worse," he said. *With Poalabelle Sarfati, Trainee*

**NO EXEMPTION**
Flight attendants are also subjected to a rigid security check at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal. JESS YUSON

**ASINAN MAKES COMEBACK**
The salt-making industry is enjoying a revival in Las Piñas City with the full support of Rep. Cynthia Villar . A newly-built salt bed or irasan (also called asinan) has been attracting visitors and old timers with fond memories of the days when salt was a premier product of Las Piñas.

## Police vow to resume digging up Pasig swamp

**By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.**

THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE Anti-Illegal Drugs Special Operations Task Force yesterday said it would resume digging up a water-logged compound in Pasig City, even if the man who was the object of their search had already surfaced.

Police started digging up a swamp inside the compound on Tuesday morning after a witness said a suspected drug peddler was cemented inside a drum and buried in the compound by his employers in October 2005.

"I came out because I was worried my family in the province would feel upset. I am the only one with that nickname (Bernardo) who lived in the compound," Billardo Torres told reporters yesterday.

Torres admitted he had lived in the compound and was a drug user before he was jailed for alleged illegal possession in 2003. He said he never returned to the compound after he was released in September 2005.

"We will resume our operations the moment we have the proper equipment," said AIDSOTF chief Director Marcelo Ele Jr.

But Raymond Fortun, lawyer of Amin Immam Boratong, owner of the compound, also vowed to block any further diggings by the police "unless they use sophisticated" equipment and have a search warrant.

## METROBRIEFS

### Fire in Mandaluyong

THREE houses were burned to the ground in Barangay Highway Hills, Mandaluyong City, the other night. Nobody was reported injured, but at least P1.5 million worth of properties was razed in the fire that began at 6:39 p.m. Wednesday on the upper floor of the house rented by Eduardo Acompanado on corner Banahaw and Samat Streets. Also damaged in the blaze were the home of Oscar Calingasin and an abandoned house. Firefighters put out the fire about 7:40 p.m. Mandaluyong City investigation chief SFO3 Avelino Caya said that the fire could have been caused by faulty electric wiring. He added that the non-stop use of appliances, like electric fans, could also cause overheating and trigger fires. *Edson C. Tandoc Jr.*

### Quite a team

ILLUSTRATION. ALBERT G. RODRIGUEZ

THE DAUGHTER of an alleged illegal recruiter based in Korea was arrested in an entrapment operation on Wednesday for reportedly accepting payments from victims in behalf of her mother. The suspect, Katrina Apar Ramos, 25, of No. 187 27th Ave., East Rembo, Guadalupe, Makati City, is now detained at the NBI Special Action Unit office. Her mother, Eleanor Jocelyn Apar Han, married to a Korean national, remains at large. Ramos was arrested while allegedly accepting marked money inside a fast food branch at the corner of Chino Roces and Buendia Avenues, according to Special Investigator Isaac Carpeso Jr. The suspects now face illegal recruitment charges. According to Vivian Chiquito, Han approached her two years ago and told her about her plans to contact possible employers in Korea. Chiquito, an employee of a local recruitment agency, agreed to help Han. A year after Han left for Korea, Ramos and Socorro Montances approached Chiquito and asked her to scout for 12 potential employees who could work as factory workers abroad. After giving a total of P262,000 in placement and visa processing fees to Ramos, Chiquito said she lost contact with Han. Ramos, a call center agent, denied the charges. Carpeso said a background check revealed that the suspects were involved in past illegal recruitment activities. *Margaux C. Ortiz*

### F. A. Aquino; 68

FRANCISCO A. Aquino, father of former People's Journal City Editor Rowena Aquino, passed away yesterday morning. He was 68. He left behind his wife Felisa, children Luz and Bobby, Romy and Ruth, Rolly and Jenny, Noemi and Mario, Rowena and Jose Manuel Ochoa, and grandchildren. His body lies at the family residence at 300 Camia Road, Seabreeze Subd., Caridad, Cavite City. Interment plans will be announced later.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
East Avenue, Diliman Quezon City
Tel. Nos (632) 920-6401 * (632) 920-6446
E-mail: sssemail@info.com.ph * Website http.//www.sss.gov.ph

INVITATION TO BID

The Social Security System is inviting offers to purchase by way of sealed bids the following properties, on May 4, 2006 at 2:00 P.M. at the Asset Management Department, 5th Floor, SSS Bldg., East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City:

| Item No. | Location/Description | Area | Minimum Bid Price |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | QUEZON CITY<br>Temple Drive, Green Meadows, Murphy<br>Residential/Commercial Block<br>covered by TCTs N-281261 & N-281262 | 6,687.70 sqm | P 200,631,000 |
| 2 | PARAÑAQUE CITY<br>Macapagal Blvd. Corner Aseana Ave.<br>Commercial block covered by<br>3 TCT Nos. 166290; 166291; 166292 | 20,218 sqm | P 707,630,000 |
| 3 | BATANGAS<br>Carpio St. Sto. Tomas<br>Lot with 2-storey school building<br>covered by TCT 105536 | 1,812 sqm FA<br>1,957 sqm LA | P 12,445,000 |

General Guidelines:

1. Disposal of properties is on "As Is Where Is" basis. Interested bidders are enjoined to personally inspect the property.
2. Bid proposal may be in cash or installment for a period of five (5) years at 13% interest per annum. Bidders shall submit proof of income if proposal is on installment basis.
3. Bid proposal must be accompanied by bidder's deposit equivalent to 20% of the bid price in Cash or in Manager's check in favor of the Social Security System. It must be placed in a sealed envelope with the label Acquired Assets Disposal Committee, Social Security System, East Avenue Diliman, Quezon City signed by the bidder across the flap.
4. SSS reserves the right to reject any or all bids, or to waive any defect found therein. All awards shall be subject to the approval of the Social Security Commission whose decision shall be final and binding on all concerned.

Bid Forms and Instruction to Bidders are available at the Asset Management Department. For other information please contact the Project Manager, Mr. Edgar Sandalo, at Tel.# 435-98-75; 435-9877 or 920-64-01 local 5180.

(Sgd.) MARIANO PABLO S. TOLENTINO
Chairman
Acquired Assets Disposal Committee

(PDI - April 7, 2006)

Philippine Economic Zone Authority
Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis Street, Pasay City, Metro Manila, Philippines
Telephones (632) 5513438 • 5513454 • Facsimile (632) 5513436
E-mail: info@peza.gov.ph • Website: www. peza.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
SUPPLY, INSTALLATION & COMMISSIONING OF FLUORESCENT
LIGHTING FIXTURES FOR PEZA BUILDING

1. The Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA), through its Corporate Operating Budget for CY 2006 intends to apply the sum of PhP 2,279,984.00 being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Fluorescent Lighting Fixtures for PEZA Building. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The PEZA now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the supply of labor and materials (new lighting fixtures including energy saving fluorescent lamp and electronic ballast), installation, commissioning, technical supervision, technical expertise, consumables and tools for 458 sets of Troffer type recess mounted fluorescent lighting fixtures. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a single similar project within the last three (3) years with an amount of at least 50% of the ABC and has at least ten (10) years experience in the manufacture and/or supply of the proposed product. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested bidders may obtain further information from the BAC Secretariat and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be inspected and/or purchased by Interested Bidders from 07 to 21 April 2006, Mondays to Fridays, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of PhP 2,000.00 and submission of a certified copy of their G-EPS Certificate of Registration. The method of payment will be cash basis only. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The PEZA will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on 27 April 2006, 2:00 p.m. at the 6th Floor, Social Hall, PEZA Building, Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis St., Pasay City.
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before 11:00 a.m. of 10 May 2006. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of GSIS Surety Bond in the amount of not less than 2.5% of the ABC or in the form of cash, certified check, cashier's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit in the amount of not less than 1% of the ABC. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on 10 May 2006, 2:00 p.m. at the 6th Floor Social Hall, PEZA Bldg., Roxas Blvd. corner San Luis St., Pasay City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
9. In case of the above dates is declared a special non-working holiday, it will automatically be reset on the next working day.
10. The PEZA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Philippine Economic Zone Authority
Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat
3/F PEZA Building, Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis St., Pasay City.
Tel No 891-6444 / Telefax No 551-9587
E-mail: peza bac secretariat@yahoo.com
Website: www.peza.gov.ph

THE CHAIRMAN
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – April 7 & 17, 2006)

# *Lifestyle diseases to kill 27 million Asians a year*

HONG KONG—BIRD FLU HAS the world in a flap, but health experts say more must be done to combat a far bigger problem—chronic "lifestyle diseases" that will kill 270 million Asians over the next decade.

While governments are finding cash and devising plans to prevent a possible flu pandemic, critics say little is being done to tackle the region's biggest killers such as cancer, diabetes and respiratory and heart disease.

"There has been a preoccupation with AIDS and more recently bird flu, but diabetes has been escalating. It's a timebomb," said professor Paul Zimmet, director of the International Diabetes Institute based in Australia.

"In Australia, 170 million dollars ($123 million) has been committed to tackle a (bird flu) epidemic which may or may not happen, but we have a huge diabetes problem and there may be, five million dollars spent annually. It's completely disproportionate," he said.

As the UN marks World Health Day on Friday, countries such as India and China are bracing for a worsening health crisis from chronic diseases that already claim more lives than infectious diseases such as malaria, AIDS and tuberculosis.

With rising prosperity in many parts of Asia, people are adopting unhealthy lifestyles that their bodies cannot cope with. Sedentary jobs, poor diet, smoking and alcohol are all blamed for the dramatic health shift.

India leads the world in diabetes cases. A government study estimated the number of diabetics to be about 38 million in 2004, and projected to rise to 57 million in 2025.

By 2020, the number of deaths each year due to chronic diseases in the country of 1.1 billion people may stand at 7.63 million (66.7 per cent of all deaths).

"Lifestyle diseases ... have already become the number one killer in India," said D. Prabhakaran, a professor at the department of cardiology at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences.

"The most important factors for lifestyle diseases are increasing consumption of tobacco, dietary consumption of fats, particularly saturated fat, lack of physical activity and inadequacy of stress-coping mechanisms," he said.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), 270 million people in Asia will die from chronic disease between 2005 and 2015, mostly poor people in low income countries such as China, India, Pakistan and Indonesia.

That represents a rise in deaths from chronic disease of 17 percent while the region will see a 10 percent fall in those killed by infectious diseases, antenatal and postnatal complications and malnutrition over the same period.

Asia has an estimated 8.3 million HIV/AIDS cases, while bird flu has killed 108 people out of 191 cases worldwide since the latest outbreak began in Asia in late 2003.

Chronic diseases are not just seen as a problem of the newly emerging wealthier classes. *AFP*

# Jury awards $4.5M in Vioxx verdict against drug firm Merck

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J.,—A JURY ON Wednesday found Merck & Co. failed to warn Vioxx users of the drug's heart risks and ordered it to pay a 77-year-old plaintiff at least $4.5 million in a decision that raises questions about the company's future defense of thousands of lawsuits filed over the medicine.

The jury determined that the company knew or should have known that its pain drug increased the risk of heart attacks and other cardiovascular events, but didn't adequately warn users or their doctors.

In a split decision after about 14 hours of deliberation, the jury said Vioxx had been a substantial contributing cause of a heart attack suffered by 77-year-old plaintiff John McDarby but determined that the drug was not a significant cause of a heart attack suffered by a second plaintiff, Thomas Cona.

Both men blamed the drug for their attacks.

Merck was also found to have misrepresented and concealed the heart risks of Vioxx when marketing the drug to doctors.

However, the jury found that Merck did not commit consumer fraud in its efforts to sell the drug. Jurors awarded $4.5 million in compensatory damages to McDarby but nothing to Cona.

Shares of the drugmaker fell 3 percent in after-hours trade.

The trial now moves into the punitive phase in the case of McDarby. Jurors will determine on Thursday whether McDarby is entitled to punitive damages on top of the compensatory damages he was awarded. Punitive damages are capped at five times the amount set for compensatory damages under New Jersey state law.

VIOXX 12.5 mg
90 Tablets

**A BOTTLE of Vioxx** AFP

Former Merck chief executive Raymond Gilmartin will appear at Thursday's hearing to explain the company's actions over Vioxx, said Merck spokesperson Kent Jarrell.

Rob Gordon, an attorney for McDarby, predicted there would be more Vioxx cases following the jury's award to McDarby, who had a series of health problems including diabetes and heart disease that his attorneys said were exacerbated by Vioxx.

"I think there is going to be a significant increase in the number of filings against Merck," Gordon told reporters after the verdict.

Merck attorney Chuck Harrell said the company was "disappointed" by the split decision.

He added, "The split ruling at least suggests that we need to look at these cases on an individual basis as we have in the past."

Neither McDarby nor Cona made any comment as they left the court. Mark Lanier, who represented Cona, told reporters after the verdict that the jury "evidently didn't believe that Cona took the drug."

Merck had sought to cast doubt on the length of time that Cona took Vioxx.

If anything is clear in this mixed verdict, according to Steve Brozak, a pharmaceuticals analyst at WBB Securities, it's that Merck is in the middle of a "long and arduous process.

"I think that Merck has to be calculating as we speak as to how long this process can continue, but (the company) can't win on draws.

"They have a mixed verdict here, but literally thousands of cases standing in front of them, and attorneys handling those cases can thrive all day long on these types of verdicts."

In previous trials, Merck was able to argue that there was no evidence of increased heart risk associated with short-term use of the pain medicine. Because Cona, 60, and McDarby were both long-term Vioxx users, this trial has been particularly closely watched for indications of how future cases might play out. *Reuters*

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**METRO ILOILO WATER DISTRICT**
Bonifacio Drive, Iloilo City
Tel. No. (033) 337-3272 / 337-3246
Fax No. (033) 336-6538

## INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Metro Iloilo Water District (MIWD), through its Bids and Awards Committee 1 (BAC-1), invites qualified bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following contracts:

| Item No. | Qty. | Name of Contracts | Approved Budget for the Contract | Cost of Bid Documents (Non-Refundable) | Delivery Period/ Contract Duration |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1 lot | Supply and Delivery of Various Fittings | P 3,442,500.00 | P 1,500.00 | 30 cds |
| 2 | 1 lot | Supply and Delivery of Water Meters ½" | P 2,000,000.00 | P 1,000.00 | 30 cds |
| 3 | 1 lot | Supply and Delivery of Various Sizes of P.E. Tubing | P 1,148,750.00 | P 1,000.00 | 30 cds |
| 4 | 1 lot | Supply and Delivery of Sewage Pump | P 900,000.00 | P 750.00 | 100 cds |
| 5 | 1 lot | Supply and Delivery of Various Sizes of Saddle Clamps | P 823,700.00 | P 750.00 | 30 cds |
| 6 | 1 lot | Supply and Delivery of Replacement Pieces | P 185,000.00 | P 250.00 | 30 cds |

Prospective bidders should have the experience in undertaking a similar contract within the last two years with an amount of 50% of the proposed contract for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted accordingly.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bid Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations-A (IRR-A).

Bid Documents and additional information may be obtained at the BAC-1 Secretariat, Ground Floor of the MIWD Building, Bonifacio Drive, Iloilo City.

The schedule of procurement activities is as follows:

| BAC ACTIVITIES | SCHEDULE |
|---|---|
| 1. Advertisement | April 7-20, 2006 |
| 2. Issuance of Bid Documents | April 17-25, 2006 |
| 3. Pre-bid Conference | April 26, 2006 2:00 p.m |
| 4. Deadline of Submission of Bids | May 9, 2006 10:00 a.m. |
| 5. Opening of Bids | May 9, 2006 10:30 a.m. |

The MIWD BAC-1 reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to waive minor informality in the bids received declare a failure of bidding for any justified and reasonable ground, and to award the contract to the bidder whose bid, as evaluated by the BAC-1, is most advantageous to the District.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) ERNESTO J. CABEROY
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee 1

(PDI—April 7 & 14, 2006)

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**Philippine Overseas Employment Administration**

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Labor and Employment
BFO Building, Ortigas Avenue cor. EDSA
Mandaluyong City 1501
Website: www.poea.gov.ph
Email: info@poea.gov.ph • Hotlines: 722-1144 • 722-1155

ISO 9001:2000

## MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 01

### Series of 2006

FOR : ALL CONCERNED ENTITIES
SUBJECT : INCENTIVES FOR RECIPIENTS OF THE PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS OF DISTINCTION AND THE MINISTERIAL COMMENDATION DURING THE SECOND INTERNATIONAL EMPLOYERS AWARDS

In recognition of the outstanding performance of international principals/employers of Filipino workers who are recipients of the Presidential Awards of Distinction and the Ministerial Commendation during the Second International Employers Awards, an incentive package consisting of the following is hereby made available to the Awardees:

**Registration of Principal and Documentation of Hired Workers**

1. Automatic renewal of registration/accreditation of the principals.
2. Validity of registration/accreditation shall be 7 and 8 years respectively for Presidential awardees and Ministerial Awardees, instead of 4 years, unless cancelled in accordance with the POEA Rules and Regulations.
3. Agencies of the awardees can avail of the open job order system for the principals.
4. Priority processing for newly hired and returning workers of the principals.
5. Priority processing of the enrolment of vessels of the principals.

**Recruitment of Filipino Workers**

6. Waiver of Special Recruitment Authority for recruitment activities of the agency for the principals, outside DOLE/POEA or PESO offices. Agency will inform POEA in writing about the special recruitment activity of the principals prior to the activity.
7. Priority issuance of Letters of Acknowledgment to representatives of the principals who come to the Philippines to conduct interview and/or selection of workers.
8. Agencies of the Awardees can avail of the POEA manpower registry, as appropriate, and/or POEA assistance in sourcing manpower for the principals.

The profile of all awardees shall also be included in the POEA website and the website of all awardees shall be hyperlinked to the POEA website.

This circular shall take effect immediately.

(Sgd.) ROSALINDA DIMAPILIS-BALDOZ
Administrator

(PDI–April 7, 2006)

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNICATIONS
**LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE**
East Avenue, Quezon City
E-mail Address: ltombox@lto.gov.ph • Website: www.lto.gov.ph

## MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 703-2006

28 March 2006

TO : LES/TAS Director, all Regional Directors, Assistant Regional Directors, designated Hearing Officers, Chiefs, MVIS/MID, Deputized Agents and other personnel concerned
SUBJECT: Apprehension and adjudication of violations where correction of MV defect is required

It has been observed that there has been an increasing number of motor vehicles traversing the highways with two wheels removed in order to circumvent R.A. No. 8794 and the ordinance on truck ban, making these motor vehicles unsafe and unfit to be operated, contrary to law. Pursuant therefore to the Road Safety Program of the Office and consistent with its mission to put order on the road and to register roadworthy and emission compliant motor vehicles, the following guidelines are hereby promulgated, for the observance of all concerned:

**A. Duty of law enforcement officer**

It is reiterated that included in the duties of deputized law enforcement officers (LEO) is the ocular inspection of motor vehicles to determine their fitness for operation, in accordance with Sec. 4 (d) (6) of R.A. No. 4136.

**B. Apprehension and adjudication of violations necessitating correction of MV defect**

1. Where it is found through random roadside inspection conducted by an LEO that the specified number of wheels of a motor vehicle has been reduced by actual removal, the driver of said motor vehicle shall be cited with the violation of reckless driving by operating an unsafe vehicle under Sec. 48 of R.A. No. 4136.

The registered owner/operator, because of improper and invalid motor vehicle classification, shall be meted the penalty provided for under DOTC Dept. Order No. 93-693, in addition to the penalty of surcharge consisting of and equal to the unpaid MVUC under Sec. 3 of R.A. No. 8794; provided, that the same act of reduction and removal of the specified wheels may also be a cause of action for the institution of criminal and civil action against the offending operator and driver, their accomplices and accessories.

2. The driver/operator shall be duly notified by the LEO of the nature of the violation(s) and the legal requirement to correct the defect of the vehicle by the re-placement and return of the removed wheels. Two MV plates shall be confiscated together with the license of the driver/operator with instruction indicated in the TOP that the motor vehicle shall be operated "up to garage only" and that the defect found must be corrected before the apprehension can be resolved.

3. In the adjudication and settlement of the case, the adjudicating officer shall likewise observe the requirement of correction of the gross vehicle weight by the re-placement and return of the removed wheels.

He shall include in the resolution that the MV must undergo correction of defect and be subject to actual inspection and weighing by the LTO motor vehicle inspection station (MVIS) and/or the district office where the apprehension shall be settled, based on specifications, aside from payment of prescribed fine and imposition of accessory penalty.

4. If it has been established by the LTO MVIS/DO that there was undercollection of the road user's charge (RUC) under R.A. No. 8794, the custodial or releasing officer shall not release the confiscated items unless proof of correct payment of RUC has been made from the issuing agency, in the meantime. The adjudicating officer must include in the resolution as well, an order for the collection of the correct RUC aside from payment of penalty due, and for the immediate correction of entries in the certificate of registration and official receipt.

**C. Responsibility for entry of corrections**

The MID shall make the necessary coordination with the service provider to ensure that the IT system is programmed in such a way as to make possible the immediate correction of entries in the data base.

**D. Penal Clause**

All employees are enjoined to implement these provisions strictly and consistently. Any one found violating these guidelines shall be subject to administrative disciplinary action in accordance with existing CSC rules and regulations, without prejudice to the institution of appropriate criminal and civil action, where warranted.

**E. Repealing Clause**

All provisions of memoranda, orders and circulars previously issued which are in conflict herewith are deemed superseded and/or modified accordingly.

**F. Effectivity**

This memorandum circular shall take effect fifteen days (15) after the filing of the three (3) copies hereof with the University of the Philippines Law Center, in accordance with Presidential Memorandum No. 11, dated October 9, 1992 and publication thereof in a newspaper of general circulation.

For guidance and strict compliance.

(Sgd.) ANNELI R. LONTOC
Assistant Secretary

(PDI - April 7, 2006)

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
**Cagayan Valley Medical Center**
Regional Tertiary, Teaching and Training Hospital
Carig, Tuguegarao City, Cagayan
Tel. No. 844-1410 or 1810

## INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

### Delivery & Supply of Medical/Surgical, Dental, X-ray, Laboratory and Blood Bank Supplies

The Cagayan Valley Medical Center (CVMC), through the GOP and Hospital Income intends to apply the sum of fifty million (P50,000,000.00) pesos being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Delivery & Supply of Medical/Surgical, Dental, X-ray, Laboratory and Blood Bank Supplies. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The Cagayan Valley Medical Center (CVMC) now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the Delivery & Supply of Medical/Surgical, Dental, X-ray, Laboratory and Blood Bank Supplies. Delivery of the GOODS is required by the second quarter of 2006. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the lowest calculated bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine his responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from Cagayan Valley Medical Center (CVMC) and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Interested Bidders from the address below upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of two thousand pesos (P2,000.00). The method of payment will be cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective bidder or his authorized representative.

The Cagayan Valley Medical Center (CVMC) will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on **April 17, 2006, 9:00 AM** at the Cagayan Valley Medical Center (CVMC) Conference Hall.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on **April 28, 2006, 9:00 AM.** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be on **April 28, 2006, 9:00 AM** at the CVMC Conference Hall. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

Issuance of Bid Documents will be from **April 18-21, 2006, 1:00 to 5:00 PM.**

The Cagayan Valley Medical Center (CVMC) reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Cagayan Valley Medical Center (CVMC)
**EMMANUEL F. ACLUBA, MD, MHA,** Chief of Hospital
Carig Sur, Tuguegarao City
(078) 844-0033, 1810, 1410
(078) 844-3789, 846-7269

(Sgd.) JOSE DANTE V. MARCOS, MD, FPOGS
BAC, Chairman

(PDI–April 7 & 12, 2006)

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*Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas*
Maynila, Pilipinas
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

## INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

| | |
|---|---|
| **Name of Project/Brief Description** : | Supply and delivery of various training ammunitions, per BSP standard specifications, as follows:<br>a. 506,020 rounds Training Ammo, Cal. 9mm<br>b. 223,040 rounds Training Ammo, Cal. 5.56 mm |
| **Approved Budget for the Contract** : | a. P9,108,360.00<br>b. 5,576,000.00 |
| **Delivery Period** : | To be delivered on staggered basis within ninety (90) calendar days, as follows:<br>Quantity<br>Cal. 9mm — Cal. 5.56 mm<br>1. 168,675 — 74,346 )<br>2. 168,675 — 74,346 )<br>3. 168,670 — 74,348 )<br>To be delivered every 30 cal. days commencing after receipt of P.O. |

Prospective bidders should have undertaken a similar project within the last five (5) years with an amount of at least 50% of the Approved Budget for the Contract. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated responsive bids shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

| Activities | Schedule |
|---|---|
| 1. Issuance of Bid Documents | 5-26 April 2006, up to 2:00 P.M. |
| 2. Pre-bid Conference | 28 April 2006, 2:00 P.M. |
| 3. Opening of Bids | 16 May 2006, 2:00 P.M. |
| 4. Bid Evaluation | ) These shall be in accordance with the prescribed periods allowed in the Implementing Rules & Regulations (IRR)-A of R.A. No. 9184 dated 10 January 2003. |
| 5. Post-qualification | |
| 6. Notice of Award | |

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of 0.05% of the total ABCs' of items to be bid out, to the BSP Cashier.

The BSP assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

The BSP reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposals, or declare the bidding a failure, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) JUAN DE ZUÑIGA, JR.
Chairman

(PDI-April 7, 2006)

# Foes demand Thaksin quit politics

BANGKOK—OPPONENTS OF THAKSIN SHINAWATRA vowed Thursday to keep up protests against the former Thai prime minister until he removed himself completely from politics.

Thaksin Tuesday bowed to months of demonstrations demanding he step down for abuse of power and said he would give up the premier's post, even though his ruling party won a majority of the vote in weekend elections.

But the billionaire-businessman turned politician also said he would stay on in parliament and remain leader of the Thai Rak Thai (Thais Love Thais) party he founded and ruled during his five years in power.

Thaksin, 56, who has appointed his deputy Chidchai Vanasatidya to replace him as caretaker prime minister, said he wanted to take a break.

The English language daily The Nation said he was planning to travel to Britain this weekend to visit a daughter studying there but a government spokesperson said he could not confirm the report.

Protests demanding Thaksin's resignation began in early February after his family sold $1.9 billion of shares, without paying taxes, in Shin Corp., the telecoms firm he founded before entering politics.

Thaksin called elections three years early to head off the protests and give himself a fresh mandate, but the gamble backfired when the opposition boycotted the polls and millions of Thais cast protest abstention votes against him. *AFP*

## US Senate GOPs offer immigration compromise

WASHINGTON—US SENATE REPUBLICANS on Wednesday reached agreement on a compromise immigration plan to try to break an impasse over a bill that would give millions of illegal immigrants a chance to become citizens.

Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist of Tennessee offered the measure as an alternative to legislation approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee and now being debated by the Senate. At the same time Frist filed a motion to force a vote on the measure.

Senate Democratic leader Harry Reid of Nevada said Democrats would look at the proposal and he "hoped it is something that we all could support."

Republicans were deeply divided over the Senate Judiciary Committee bill which would provide a path to citizenship for some of the 11 million people living in the country illegally.

They would have to pay a fine, pay their taxes, show good character and learn English, and it would take about 11 years to gain citizenship.

The Republican alternative would separate the population into three groups depending on how long they lived in the United States as of January 2004. Those in the country longer than five years would be eligible for citizenship along the lines contained in the Judiciary Committee bill, aides said.

Those who have lived two to five years in the United States would have six months to register and three years to apply for a temporary work visa or some other visa, aides said. They could live in the country legally during that time but would have to return to a US port of entry to get the visa.

Illegal immigrants in the country less than two years would not be eligible for special treatment and would have to leave, aides said. *Reuters*

**DUCKS** are displayed for sale at a market in Phnom Penh April 6. Bird flu has killed a 12-year-old boy in Cambodia, the impoverished Southeast Asian nation's sixth victim. REUTERS

## UK confirms bird flu in dead swan

LONDON—BRITAIN HAS CONFIRMED BIRD flu in a dead swan found in a Scottish village, authorities said Wednesday, but more tests were needed to determine whether it is the deadly H5N1 strain.

Scottish authorities confirmed the H5 bird flu subtype in the wild swan, which was found in Cellardyke, more than 450 miles north of London.

It was the first H5 case reported in the United Kingdom.

Final test results were expected back Thursday from an EU laboratory in Weybridge, England, officials said.

If confirmed to be H5N1, Britain would be the 13th EU country to report cases of the strain in wild birds, according to the European Commission.

Britain's chief veterinary officer Debby Reynolds canceled a bird flu readiness exercise Wednesday. She said she halted it so all Britain's resources would be available if necessary.

Authorities were "already in a high state of readiness," Reynolds said.

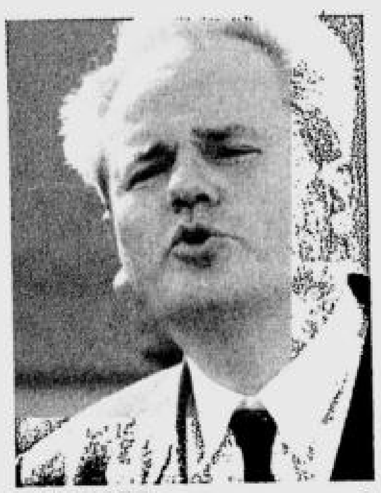
Charles Milne, the chief veterinary officer for Scotland, imposed a protection zone around the site.

"Bird keepers outside the protection zone should redouble their efforts to prepare for bringing their birds indoors if that becomes necessary," he said.

The protection zone requires poultry to be kept indoors and not moved except directly to the slaughterhouse, authorities said.

Scotland's National Farmers Union said there was some comfort for poultry growers because the disease was discovered in a wild bird. *AP*

## Dutch probe: No foul play in Milosevic death



**MILOSEVIC** AP

THE HAGUE—FORMER YUGOSLAV President Slobodan Milosevic died naturally of a heart attack, Dutch prosecutors who investigated his death in UN custody said Wednesday, dismissing allegations of foul play.

The official Dutch probe found that Milosevic, who had long suffered from high blood pressure and related heart problems, "died a natural death and that there are no indications that the death resulted from crime," the prosecutor's office said in a statement.

"During the autopsy serious heart diseases were diagnosed which have caused the cardiac arrest. There were no signs of external violence," the probe found.

The statement also said that no medicines that had not been prescribed to the former Yugoslav leader—notably rifampicin, a strong antibiotic that would have countered the effects of his heart medication—were found in his body.

"In conformance with ... preliminary findings, the NFI (Netherlands Forensic Institute) has now definitely come to the conclusion that the cause of death was cardiac arrest," the statement said, giving the time of death as between 7:00 and 9:00 am on March 11.

Milosevic was found dead around 10:00 am that morning in his cell at the UN war crimes tribunal based in The Hague, where he was being tried over his role in the 1990s wars that broke up the old Yugoslav federation. He was 64.

According to the Dutch prosecutor's office the guards had already tried to wake Milosevic an hour earlier that day.

"They assumed that he did not react to the wake-up call because he was asleep and only entered his cell at 10 am," the statement said.

The four-year-long trial of the former Yugoslav strongman, who faced 66 counts including genocide over the 1995 Srebrenica massacre, was expected to wrap up this year.

Milosevic's supporters in Russia, where his widow lives, and in his native Serbia have alleged he was poisoned, while the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) suspected he was taking rifampicin to make his health deteriorate so he would be allowed to seek treatment in Moscow.

The statement from the Dutch prosecutor's office said: "No indications were found that showed poisoning, and neither were toxicological factors found that might have provoked a cardiac arrest." *AFP*

## Saddam admits approving '80s death sentences

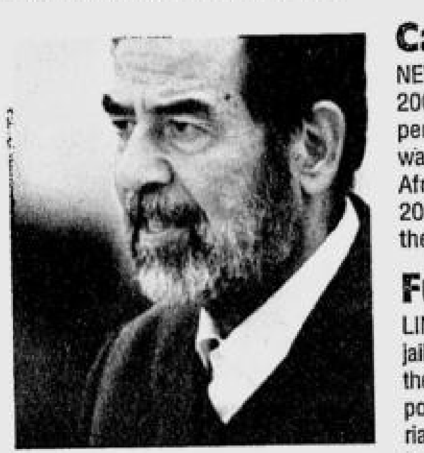
BAGHDAD, IRAQ—SUBJECTED to cross-examination for the first time, Saddam Hussein admitted Wednesday that he had signed an order of execution for 148 men and boys with only a cursory glance at the evidence.

The testimony appeared to bolster the case of the prosecution in a tumultuous six-month trial that has been plagued by assassinations, courtroom outbursts and political infighting, and that is still widely seen as illegitimate by international observers and human rights advocates.

The chief prosecutor, Jaafar al-Mousawi, is trying to establish that Saddam and seven co-defendants were responsible for the torture and executions of men and boys from the Shiite village of Dujail, where a small group of guerrillas tried to kill Saddam in 1982. The victims were rounded up shortly after the assassination attempt and sent off to prisons, where they were eventually killed. The defendants are also charged with destroying the livelihood of the villagers by razing orchards near the site of the attack.

Shortly before a lunch break on Wednesday, al-Mousawi asked Saddam, the only defendant in the dock during the session, how he could have taken only two days to review the evidence before signing the execution order.

"That is the right of the head of the state," he replied, standing behind a lectern in a black suit, swiveling his head between the prosecutor and the chief judge, Raouf Abdel-Rahman. He said he had complied with any requirements in the Constitution mandating that he review the documents, "but it was not possible for me to read everything." *NYT*



**SADDAM** AFP

## WORLDBRIEFS

### Cases of India HIV infections jump

NEW DELHI—India will report a 157 percent jump in new HIV infections in 2005, pushing the total number of sufferers to over 5.2 million, a newspaper said Thursday. But the number of people living with HIV/AIDS, which was up from the previous year's 5.13 million cases, remains below South Africa's 5.3 million, the Indian Express said. The 72,000 new infections in 2005 was up from 28,000 in 2004, the paper said. But it still was far below the 520,000 new infections reported in 2003 by the government body. *AFP*

### Fujimori weds Japan businesswoman

**KATAOKA** AFP

LIMA—Former Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori, jailed in Chile, has married Satomi Kataoka of Japan, the bride announced late Wednesday at a rally for his political party. She gave no further details on the marriage to Fujimori, 67, who is in jail in Chile awaiting extradition to Peru for a list of crimes allegedly committed during his 1990-2000 presidency. The hotel owner, 39, arrived in Lima on Wednesday to support Alliance for the Future presidential candidate Martha Chavez in Sunday's election. Kataoka did not explain where or how the couple married, as she spoke before hundreds of followers of Fujimori's party. Representatives filed marriage registration papers in Japan on behalf of Fujimori and Kataoka, whom he met during his five years of exile in Tokyo, Kyodo News said. *AFP*

### Divorce by text message

KUALA LUMPUR—Muslim husbands who divorce their wives with a text message are cruel, Malaysia's minister for women and family affairs said Thursday. Shahrizat Abdul Jalil told the Star daily that attempts to divorce by SMS, were humiliating and disrespectful to wives, as well as an abuse of technology. "While a husband has the right to divorce his wife, this should be done in a courteous and dignified manner, befitting the manner they had got married," she was quoted as saying in the newspaper. "New technologies including the SMS should not be misused to send out a divorce declaration," she said, adding that text divorces could undermine the importance of marriage. Under Malaysia's Islamic law, a man can divorce his wife with repeated verbal pronouncements known as "talaq." But Shahrizat called for talaq to be uttered in shariah or Islamic courts, saying it was the most honorable way to proceed, and not via SMS text messages. *AFP*

### Indian dodges eye-for-an-eye justice

NEW DELHI—An Indian returned home Thursday after Saudi Arabia's government pardoned him before authorities there could gouge out one of his eyes out to punish him for injuring a Saudi man in a fight, news reports said. Abdul Lateef Naushad, 34, was working at a gas station in the eastern Saudi city of Dammam in April 2003 when he got into a fight with a Saudi citizen, who lost his right eye during the scuffle. Naushad was then arrested and sentenced by a Saudi court to have his right eye removed in accordance with the strict interpretation of Islamic law used in the Arabian country. *AP*

### Finland court stops generic Lipitor sales

NEW YORK—Pfizer Inc. has said that the Helsinki Court of Appeals in Finland has granted a preliminary injunction against Ranbaxy Laboratories Ltd. that prohibits the manufacturer from marketing a generic version of Lipitor. The ruling involves Pfizer's patent (FI94958) that covers processes and intermediate compounds used to make atorvastain, the active ingredient in Lipitor. "This decision is another significant milestone in our defense of Lipitor patents around the world," said Pfizer vice chairman and general counsel Jeffrey Kindler. "It's also an important outcome for Pfizer and other medical innovators who invest in high-risk research to develop life-saving medicines for millions of patients."

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# Fiba: Lina still key to cage row

## Baumann puts the ball back in POC's court

By Al S. Mendoza

**WHAT IS THE FASTEST WAY to bring Philippine basketball back to the Fiba fold?**

PATRICK Baumann: All-powerful

The answer comes no less from Patrick Baumann, the secretary general of the international basketball federation (Fiba).

"Make Mr. Joey Lina sign the statutes (of the new basketball body) and it's all over," said Baumann. "The Fiba just cannot disown its own member because that will set a bad precedent in the world basketball community."

Baumann made the statement during the breakthrough April 4 meeting he had with Philippine Olympic Committee officials headed by president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco in Seoul.

"The fastest way to do it is for you to convince Mr. Lina to rejoin your group," Baumann told the high-powered delegation that also included POC vice president Monico Puentevella, secretary general Steve Hontiveros and legal counsel Ding Tanjuatco.

Also present during the meeting were Fiba secretary general emeritus Borislav Stankovic and outgoing Fiba president Dr. Carl Ching Meng-ky.

### 'I believe him'

"I may not necessarily agree with him but, nonetheless, I believe him," said Cojuangco of Baumann's position. "Really, Mr. Lina is the key to solving our basketball problem. I sincerely hope Mr. Lina would listen to Mr. Baumann."

Puentevella, who is set to file a resolution in Congress "to end the suffering of our 50 million basketball fans," also agreed with Baumann.

"Despite his stubbornness and stern stance, I am thanking Mr. Baumann for his advice," said Puentevella, who will fly to Bangkok tomorrow for a crucial SEA Games meeting among the region's top Games brass.

"We will heed Mr. Baumann's position and I am now looking for a win-win formula to win over Lina to our side for the sake of national unity in basketball."

The creation of a new basketball body, in this case, Pilipinas Basketball, was the chief provision in the memorandum of understanding (MOU) signed between Baumann and Cojuangco to reinstate the Philippines to the Fiba.

As per Baumann's interpretation of the MOU, however, its most vital requirement was for Lina to be a signatory to the constitution and by-laws of Pilipinas Basketball.

"Mr. Lina's signature is a key element to the reinstatement of the Philippines to Fiba," said Baumann, who had also met with PBA commissioner Noli Eala, PBL commissioner Chino Trinidad, the UAAP's Jun Jun Capistrano, the NCAA's Paul Supan, PBA chair Ely Capacio and PBA vice chair Ricky Vargas.

# Joey happy BAP was 'vindicated'

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION OF THE Philippines will seek advice from the international basketball federation (Fiba) after Pilipinas Basketball, the new cage body backed by the Philippine Olympic Committee, failed to get the nod of Fiba secretary general Patrick Baumann.

"I'm happy that the BAP [has been]

JOEY/ A28

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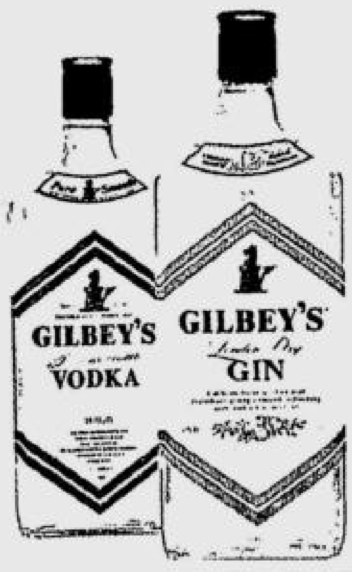

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# Williams bails out Magnolia

By Jasmine W. Payo

**KELLY WILLIAMS WAS BRILLIANT IN THE FOURTH QUARTER LAST NIGHT, shooting 11 of his 23 points in the crucial period to lead Magnolia to a 63-57 decision of Harbour Center in the PBL Unity Cup at the FEU Gym.**

The Most Valuable Player in last conference's finals, Williams bailed out the Spinners with baskets in the clutch as Magnolia evened its record to 2-2. Williams also snared 15 rebounds and finished with three blocks.

It was the fourth straight loss for the Port Masters, who remained the only winless team in the field.

"The players showed class down the stretch," said Magnolia coach Koy Banal. "The pressure was there because both teams wanted to win.

"We experienced that kind of pressure in the finals last conference and we used it to our advantage today."

The Spinners turned a precarious 51-50 edge into a 61-54 gap behind the heroics of Williams, the high-flying center who also owns a decent shot from beyond three-point range.

Magnolia actually joined Granny Goose in fourth spot after the Tortillos thwarted Hapee-PCU, 76-71, in the first game.

The Tortillos ended a two-game losing streak behind Kelvin dela Peña and Dennis Concha, who shared team honors with 17 points each.

"We're still struggling because the team is still adapting to my system," said coach Robert Sison, who transferred to Granny Goose after quitting Montaña last month.

Idle Montaña has the early lead with a 4-0 card, followed by Rain or Shine and Toyota Otis at 3-1 slates. Hapee-PCU slipped to 1-3.

Dela Peña was also a fourth quarter hero, shooting seven points in the fourth period for Granny Goose to foil the Teethmasters' late comeback anchored on Gabby Espinas.

The scores:

**First Game**

**GRANNY GOOSE 76** —Dela Peña 17, Concha 17, Quinahan 10, Saldua 10, Grijaldo 8, Santos 7, Latonio 5, Alfad 2, Ibañes 0, Cruz 0, Cervantes 0.

**HAPEE-PCU 71**—Espinas 18, Sanz 17, Castro 14, Gonzales 13, Moreno 2, Belga 1, Guevarra 0, Solis 0, Razon 0.

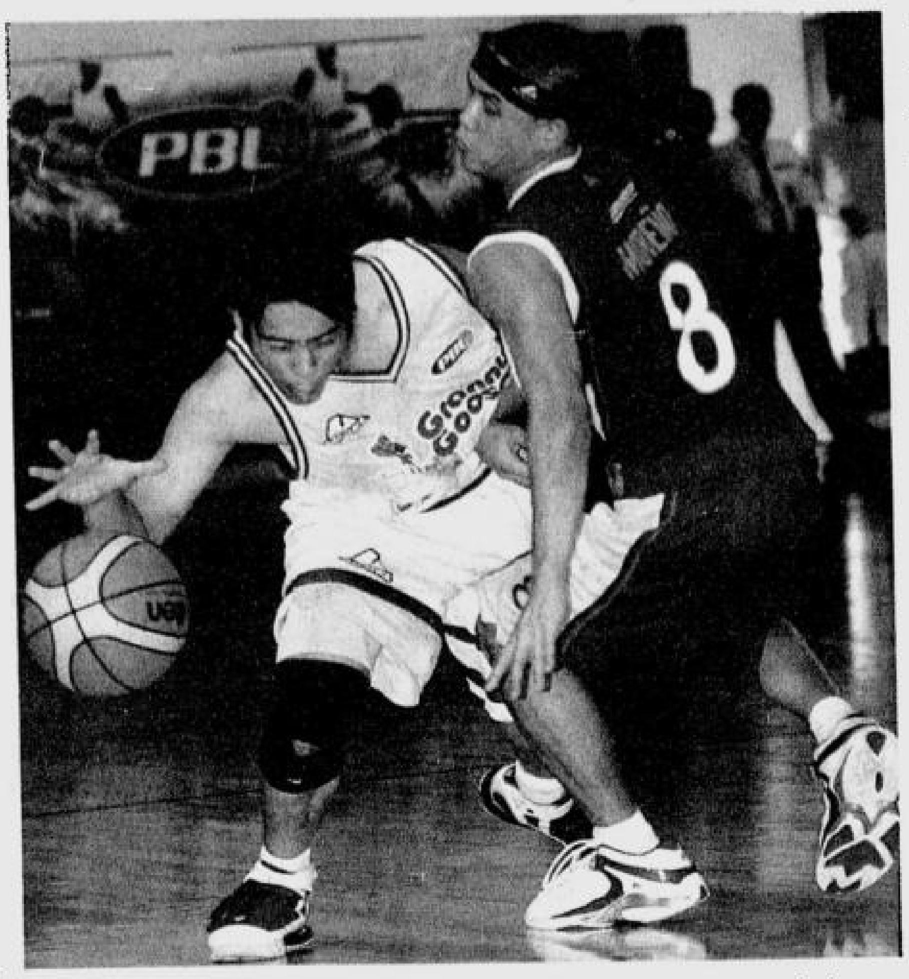
**Quarters:** 16-18, 38-28, 55-48, 76-71

**Second Game**

**MAGNOLIA 63**—Williams 23, Co 11, Santos 9, Chan 9, Valenzuela 3, Isip 3, Misolas 2, Barcellano 2, Cutler 1, Bombeo 0, Te 0, Dela Cruz 0, Jones 0.

**HARBOUR CENTRE 57**—Gaco 13, Yeo 10, Tenorio 9, Reyes 8, Arana 7, Saguindel 3, Coching 3, Alonzo 2, Chia 2, Paterno 0, Maierhofer 0, Gamboa 0.

**Quarters:** 22-16, 29-26, 42-44, 63-57



**GRANNY Goose's Marvin Cruz tries to get past Hapee's Mark Moreno during their game at the FEU Gym in Manila yesterday.** ERIK ARAZAS

# Escares routs Lagura, cops 10-under title

TOP SEED MARK ESCARES BAGGED THE UNIsex 10-under title over No. 2 Ericka Lagura, 6-3, 6-2, yesterday in the Philta-Truflex National Age Group Championships at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

It was the third title for the 9-year-old Escares, an incoming Grade 4 student at Marist School, after winning the Olivarez Cup and Milo-Philam leg last year.

Meanwhile, second seed Bernardine Nino Siso rallied past fifth seed Leander Lazaro, 6-4, 4-6, 6-3, to advance to the boys' 14-under finals against top seed Kim Ivor Saraza, a 6-0, 7-5 winner over No. 3 Jose Lorenzo Ferrer.

In the boys' 12-under division, No. 2 Deo Talatayod outlasted fourth seed Jose Alfonso Opulencia, 6-4, 7-6 (3), to forge a title duel with top seed Jacob Lagman, who blasted Calvin Canlas.

Girls' 16-under No. 1 Jessica Marie Agra tripped third-ranked Regina Santiago, 6-1, 6-2, while Sarah Jane Lim stunned No. 2 Christine Patrimonio, 6-1, 6-1, to advance to the finals.

Top seed Denise Dy outclassed Alyssa Mendoza, 6-0, 6-1, to advance to the girls' 18-under semifinals against fourth seed Michelle Pang, who beat Christine Patrimonio. The other semis pairing will pit second seed Jessica Agra, a 6-2, 6-1 winner over July Javelosa, 6-2, 6-1, against Ivy de Castro, who prevailed over Trudy Gine Amoranto, 6-4, 6-3.

Winners in the girls' 14-under division were No. 1 Regina Santiago over No. 8 Jasmine Tan Ho, 6-0, 6-1, No. 3 Joan Opulencia over unseeded Chynna Mamawal, 6-1, 6-3, No. 4 Sarah Jane Lim over No. 6 Maika Tanpoco, 6-4, 6-4, and No. 5 Sally Mae Siso over No. 2 JV Custodio, 6-3, 6-0.

# Giants seek 5th straight victory versus Beermen

MAKING IT TO THE All-Star Game as a head coach for the second straight year is far from Purefoods coach Ryan Gregorio's mind.

But the way he has made his Chunkee Giants play in the Gran Matador-PBA Philippine Cup, things are looking up for Gregorio. It has put him in position to clinch the job with a win over San Miguel at the Ynares Center in Antipolo today.

Purefoods guns for a fifth straight win and the solo lead when it clashes with the Beermen, a high probability considering the way the Giants have disposed off their last four foes.

"I don't want to think about it (All Star stint) right now," said Gregorio, who, incidentally, will be celebrating his 34th birthday today. "I just want us to keep on winning, keep on improving."

The Giants won their last four assignments by an average of more than 15 points, with Air21 the last to fall, 105-94.

By tradition, the top two coaches, two weeks before the mid-season extravaganza, get to call the shots for the North and South teams in the All-Star weekend set in Cagayan de Oro this year from April 27-29.

And as things stand, a Purefoods victory over the Beermen would give Gregorio the job.

San Miguel's Jong Uichico can claim one of the slots if the Beermen split their two remaining games before the cut-off Sunday.

A San Miguel victory today, however, would give Coke, Purefoods and Ginebra identical 5-3 slates, a scenario which also favors Gregorio. Purefoods can still get second seeding because of a higher quotient. *June Navarro*

| STANDINGS | W | L |
|---|---|---|
| Coca-Cola | 5 | 2 |
| San Miguel | 5 | 2 |
| Purefoods | 5 | 2 |
| Ginebra | 4 | 3 |
| Red Bull | 3 | 4 |
| Alaska | 3 | 4 |
| Air21 | 3 | 5 |
| Talk 'N Text | 2 | 4 |
| Sta. Lucia | 1 | 5 |

**GAMES TODAY**
(*Ynares Center*)
4:40 p.m.—Purefoods vs SMB
7:35 p.m.—Alaska vs Sta. Lucia

## Santos out for rest of season

By June Navarro

BARANGAY GINEBRA'S RODNEY SANTOS WILL BE OUT FOR THE REMAINDER of the PBA season after undergoing surgery to correct an ACL tear on the left knee. Renowned sports surgeon Dr. Raul Canlas did the procedure and said that Santos' recovery will take at least six months. Santos sustained the injury last Sunday in Ginebra's overtime victory over the Alaska Aces. A clutch shooter who bailed out the Kings in critical moments many times in the past, the former NCAA MVP from San Sebastian was a key factor during Ginebra's back-to-back championships last season. Mark Caguioa, Jayjay Helterbrand, Kalani Ferreria, Sunday Salvacion, Aris Dimaunahan and rookies Michael Holper and Mark Macapagal can compensate for the absence of Santos.

# Joey happy BAP was vindicated

From page A27

vindicated," BAP president Joey Lina said yesterday. "But I'm also going to seek clarification from the (Fiba) central board on what concrete steps to take."

Lina said the BAP will continue to work on its readmission in the local Olympic body.

"I will continue to knock at POC's door until my knuckles hurt," he said. "But while we are seeking readmission to the POC, we are further accelerating efforts to lift the suspension."

In a meeting in Seoul, South Korea, Baumann pointed out to top POC officials led by president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco that Pilipinas Basketball did not have the approval of Lina, the fifth stakeholder.

Thus, without the consensus of the five stakeholders, Fiba cannot accept Pilipinas Basketball as the replacement of the BAP.

Even a separate meeting with the four stakeholders—representatives from the PBA, PBL, UAAP and NCAA—did not change Baumann's position.

In a statement yesterday, the BAP stressed that the "majority decision is not what Fiba is asking but a consensus of all."

"I plan to get an appointment again (with Cojuangco)," said Lina.

"The BAP hopes that the POC will reconsider the expulsion and welcome back BAP into its fold, just as a father accepts even a prodigal son," the BAP said.

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2006 P PPINES

**ALL FOR A BIG SHOW: The main personalities behind the Manila World Pool Championshionships link arms. From left, Bustamante, BSCP's Ernie Fajardo, Reyes, Yen Makabenta, ESPN Star Sports senior director Harvey Davis and Matchroom Media director Luke Riches.** ERIK ARAZAS

# Cool P75M for World Pool staging

By Musong R. Castillo

IF THE LOCAL ORGANIZERS CAN have their way, the World Pool Championship will stay in the Philippines for a while.

"We know that we will be lucky if we make money in the first year," Yen Makabenta, chair of the Billiards and Snooker Congress of the Philippines and president of the organizing Raya Sports, said at the press launch yesterday of the event's 2006 edition.

At least P75 million, according to Makabenta, will be needed to stage the event where 128 of the world's best players will be entered, including Filipinos Alex Pagulayan, Amang Parica and Marlon Manalo.

"But by the time the second (staging) comes, I feel we can start collecting (the revenues)," added Makabenta, who was joined by ESPN Star Sports and Matchroom Sports officials in the launch at the Manila Hotel. "Frankly speaking, we want to keep it (tournament) here (in the Philippines) for a while."

The 17th staging of the most prestigious event in pool will be held Nov. 4-12 at a venue still to be determined, confirming an INQUIRER report earlier in the week.

Organizers are looking at the Philippine International Convention Center or the soon-to-open SM Mall of Asia as venues. There would be at least 12 tables, with the center table to be situated in the middle of a gallery stand that could accommodate 1,500 people.

Makabenta feels there will be enough corporate sponsors to help in raising the money, which would be the biggest in the history of the tourney. The champion goes home with a quarter of the total pot of $400,000 (P20.4 million).

The World Pool Championship was held in Kaohsiung, Taiwan, for the last two years and in Cardiff, Wales, the previous five seasons.

Legendary Filipino cue artist Efren "Bata" Reyes and Pagulayan are former winners of the event, with the 51-year-old Reyes pulling out the trick in 1999 in Cardiff and Pagulayan two years ago in Taiwan.

For this year, only Pagulayan, being a former winner in the last five years, Parica, for placing second in the US Open last year, and Manalo, for making the semifinals last year, are the only Filipinos assured of slots.

The others, Reyes and former world No. 1 Francisco "Django" Bustamante included, still have seven months to compete in various tournaments to pocket a slot.

Last year, 42 countries were represented and 19 Taiwanese made the field. Wu Chia-ching, the eventual champion, and Kuo Po-cheng arranged an all-Taiwanese final.

# Reyes welcomes World Pool in Manila

**CLEAN LIVING**

*Manolo R. Iñigo*

IT WILL BE A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY FOR the Philippines to host the prestigious World Pool Championship this November because it will not only take away the world's attention from the crises that beset our country, but also lift the spirits of Filipinos shaken by the prevailing political and economic hard times.

Matchroom Sport, the renowned British company, promotes the annual World Pool Championship, the biggest and most expensive sporting event featuring 128 of the world's best pool pros from 40 countries. Its television partner is ESPN Star Sports, which will be broadcasting the tournament live across Asia and in Britain. It is sanctioned by the World Pool Association, the sport's governing body.

Yen Makabenta, chair of the Billiards and Snooker Congress of the Philippines; BSCP president Ernie Fajardo and billiards benefactor Aristeo "Putch" Puyat of Puyat Sports are the moving spirit behind the 17th hosting of the championship, which offers a record purse of $100,000 to the champion out of the total prize fund of $400,000.

Actually, Matchroom Sport had invited Puyat Sports to co-promote the World Pool Championship way back in 2001 because of its reputation of producing champion pool players and of hosting international billiards tournaments. I remember having written a report about it. Matchroom Sports repeated the offer to Puyat during the 2004 championship in Taipei, which also hosted the event in 2005.

Billiards is now "big league" in the Philippines, thanks to Angeles City native Efren "Bata" Reyes, a Hall of Famer and winner of the championship in Cardiff in 1999; Canada-based Alex "The Lion" Pagulayan, who triumphed in Taipei in 2004; and Tarlac idol Francisco "Django" Bustamante, one of the superstars of world pool.

Saying hosting the championship here won't happen every day, the 51-year-old Reyes stressed he was truly happy not only for himself but for the whole Philippine team. "We are ready to play anywhere in the world," he said, "but we will get the extra boost by playing before a hometown crowd."

Widely known as "The Magician" for his dumbfounding shots, Reyes said the Philippines is also fortunate since it could field 12 players in the main draw as the host country.

Among the former champions, the players to watch are those coming from Chinese Taipei such as Wu Ching-chia, the pool prodigy from Taishang county who won the 2005 championship at age 16, the youngest ever winner of the event since 1990; Yang Ching-shun, "The Son of Pool"; and two-time champion (1993 and 2000) Chao Fong-pang. These Taiwanese players are not only dynamic shooters, but also masters of the jump shot.

Also to reckon with are Earl Strickland, Johnny Archer and Corey Deuel of the United States; Ralf Souquet, Thorsten Hohmann and Thomas Engert of Germany; Kunihiko Takahashi of Japan; Mika Immonen of Finland; and English snooker champion Steve Davis.

* * *

**Better late than never.**

**Filipino athletes with disabilities who won more than 20 gold medals in last year's 3rd Asean Para Games finally received their cash rewards recently during a simple ceremony held under the auspices of the Philippine Sports Commission. Multititled chess champion Sander Severino, who bagged five gold medals in the handicapped/blind category, led the awardees. The cash rewards given were P25,000 for gold, P15,000 for silver and P10,000 for bronze.**

**Kudos to PSC chair Butch Ramirez, his commissioners, executive director Guillermo Iroy Jr. and Mike Barredo of the Philippine Sports Association for the Differently Abled and International Blind Sports Federation for their concern. These athletes with disabilities train just as hard as the normal and able-bodied athletes and should be rewarded for a job well done. For surely, they are the true Olympians. (We regret the typographical error on the price of a bleacher ticket for the coming Manny Pacquiao-Oscar Larios non-title fight at the Big Dome (*PDI, 04/3/06*). It was P1,000 not $1,000 as erroneously published.)**

# Mystery unfolds at Masters today

**AUGUSTA, GEORGIA—THE MASTERS starting on Thursday seems to contain more mystery than ever.**

Part of that is the sheer length. The tees were pushed back on six holes, stretching the Augusta National course to 7,445 yards (6,807 meters), the second-longest course in major championship history behind Whistling Straits (7,514 yards, 6,870 meters) two years ago at the US PGA Championship.

The par-3 fourth hole now is 240 yards, requiring most players to hit fairway metal, and some players to hit a driver. The par-4 11th is 505 yards, with trees to the right of the landing area and a pond to the left of the green ready to swallow up any mistake.

Masters chair Hootie Johnson vigorously defended the changes on Wednesday, especially at No. 11, pointing out that Bobby Jones intended the second shot to be played with a 3-iron or more.

"He (Jones) probably was hitting into a green that ran at 2 on the Stimpmeter," said Retief Goosen. "The condition of the greens now are different than they were in the 1900s. You hit a 3-iron on the front of that green, it rolls off into the water."

And then there's the weather.

Azaleas and dogwoods are blazing even brighter under a warm sun. The tightly mown grass beneath the feet is firm, not slippery. Not since 2001 has the Masters been contested over four days in relatively dry, fast conditions.

"We haven't really played many Masters with dry conditions yet," Ernie Els said. "We might find out this week."

The final day of practice revealed some potential problems, with wedge shots bouncing hard off the green, then crawling endlessly until they were off the putting surface. *AP*

**JACK Nicklaus and his grandson, Charlie, 8, examine the eighth green during the Masters Par 3 contest.** AP

# Bulls jump ahead of 76ers in playoff race

NEW YORK—ANDRES NOCIONI scored 21 points and hauled down 13 rebounds to help the Chicago Bulls move into the eighth and final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference with a 99-92 road win over the Philadelphia 76ers on Wednesday.

Ben Gordon also scored 21 points for the Bulls, who jumped 1/2 game above the Sixers in the battle for a post-season berth.

The teams meet again in Chicago on Saturday with the roles reversed as the slumping Sixers are now chasing the Bulls for the final playoff slot in the East.

"We're out of the eighth spot but we're not out of the hunt," Sixers coach Maurice Cheeks told reporters. "It's how you respond."

Chicago (35-40) has responded to the challenge of catching the Sixers (34-40), winning four straight and six of the last seven games.

Philadelphia has lost 12 of the last 16 and were blown out by 33 points by Cleveland on Tuesday.

In New York, Jamal Crawford scored a season-high 37 points as the Knicks upset the Cleveland Cavaliers, 96-94.

The Knicks ended their nine-game losing streak while snapping the Cavaliers' nine-game winning streak.

In San Antonio, Mike Bibby had 31 points, eight assists and seven rebounds as the Sacramento Kings upset the Spurs, 97-87. *Reuters*

**COMPLETE RESULTS:** Chicago 99, Philadelphia 92; Orlando 108, Milwaukee 105; Atlanta 101, Minnesota 99; Indiana 111, Toronto 103; Washington 108, Boston 91; NY Knicks 96, Cleveland 94; Oklahoma City 114, Golden State 109 (ot); Sacramento 97, San Antonio 87; Portland 76, Houston 75; LA Clippers 119, Phoenix 105. ***AP***

**SOLAR Sports will air the LA Lakers-Denver tussle at 10:30 a.m. today.**

# Jack, Arnold bid farewell

AUGUSTA, GEORGIA—ARNOLD PALMER, 76, and Jack Nicklaus, 66, made a curtain call at the Augusta National on Wednesday, delighting their fans by competing in the traditional par-three contest on the eve of the US Masters.

It was the only opportunity for the galleries to see the pair, who combined to win a total of 10 green jackets, in action this week and thousands descended on the tiny nine-hole course.

When the year's opening major begins on Thursday it will mark the first time in more than half a century that neither American has teed off in the main event.

Nicklaus, who played his final competitive round at Augusta last year, was in contention in the par-three tournament as he finished three shots behind winner Ben Crane who returned a four-under 23. American Crane is hoping to end a long hoodoo. *Reuters*

# Boxer sentenced for killing writer

LOS ANGELES—BOXER JAMES BUTLER JR., who fought under the moniker "The Harlem Hammer," was sentenced Wednesday to nearly 30 years in prison for the death of sports journalist Sam Kellerman.

Butler will also pay $17,853 in funeral expenses to Kellerman's family, $10,000 to the state's victim restitution fund and $11,882 to the owner of the victim's apartment, which was left torched and blood-soaked after the killing, said Jane Robison, a spokeswoman for the district attorney's office.

The 29-year-old Kellerman's body was found in his Hollywood apartment on Oct. 17, 2004, near a hammer. The boxer pleaded guilty to voluntary manslaughter and arson as jury selection was set to begin in his trial on March 27. *AP*

## SPORTSWATCH

**GAME HERO: San Beda Red Cub Francis Munsayac is flanked by Red Bull coach Yeng Guiao and product manager Tom Meneses during the awards rites of the Cherifer Tangkad Sagad Basketball Tournament at the Tiendesitas People's Village in Pasig City recently. Munsayac hit the winning basket to lift SBC past St. Scholastica-Pampanga, 22-21, in the title match backed by Adidas.**

### Fearless Fighting erupts

THE COUNTRY'S TOUGHEST RING GLADIATORS gather at 8 tonight in the Fearless Fighting Championships (FFC) at the Metrowalk complex in Ortigas Center. Sixteen fights consisting of 25-minute rounds are on tap in seven weight divisions of the event featuring fighters from jiu-jitsu, boxing, taekwondo, judo, karate, aikido and muay thai. Fight time starts at 8 p.m. Alex Lopez, promoter and organizer of FFC, said the event will use a three-judge system.

### PCCA race heats up

THE BATTLE FOR PASAY COCKPIT COCKERS Association (PCCA) Cocker of the Year award heats up today with the staging of a 4-cock derby at the Pasay City Cockpit. The 62-fight program will be supported by Sagupaan Complexor 3000. Partners Ric de Guzman and Gov. Ito Ynares (Coffe King Binangonan) and Pol Estrellado (EBL Sta. Cruz) lead with 16 wins each. Meanwhile, PCC pit managers Eric dela Rosa, Butchoy Olano and Roming Vergara said that PCCA's Anniversary 5-cock derby will be held July 17, 19 and 21.

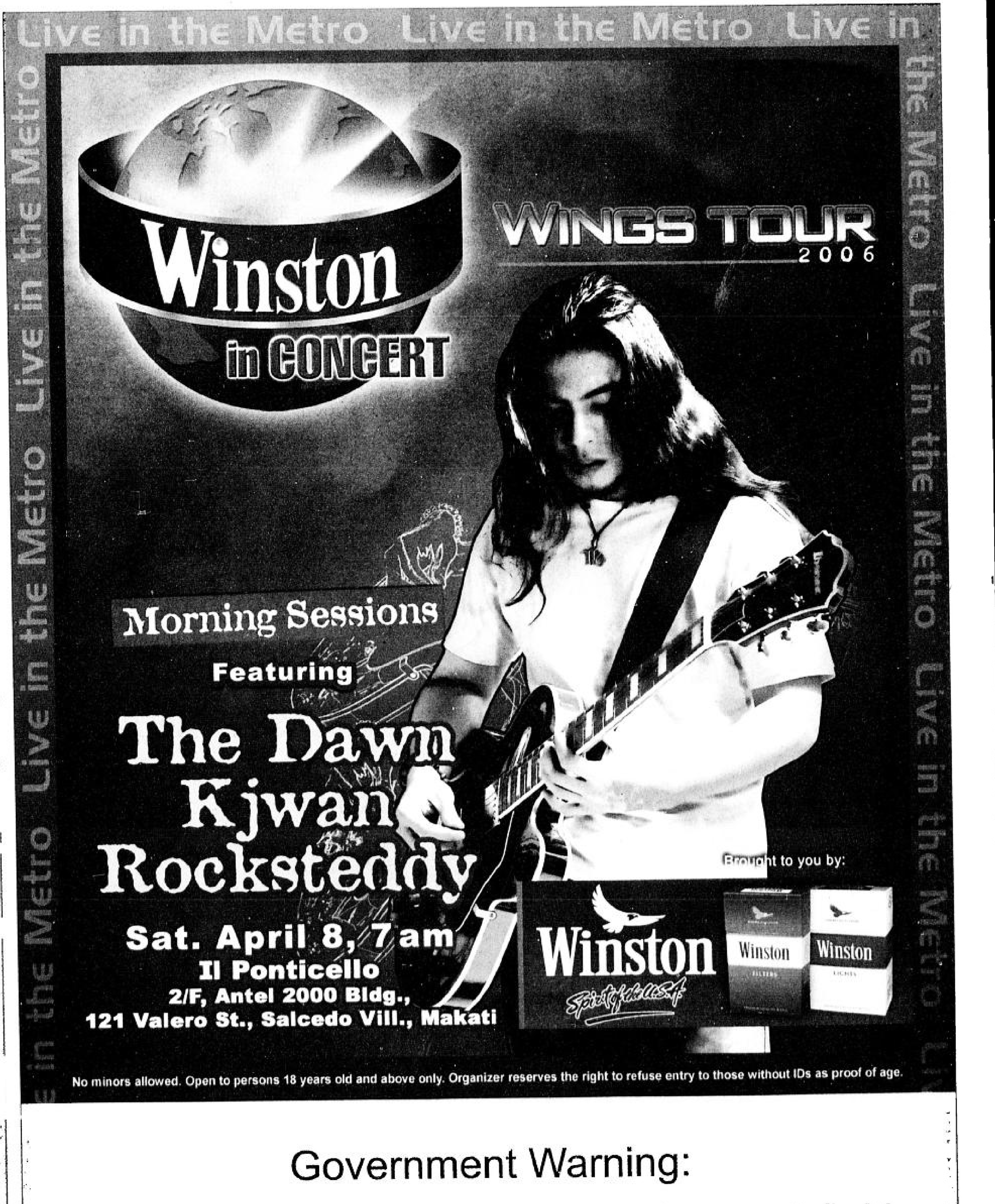
### UBBA cockfest April 10

THE UNITED BACKYARD BREEDERS ASSOciation (UBBA), a group of 50 up-and-coming gamefowl breeders, will stage its annual Summer 3-cock derby at San Juan Coliseum on April 10. Sponsor is Sagupaan Complexor 3000. UBBA stalwart Ronnie Lacsina said this derby is open to other cockers and backyard breeders with less than 100 fighters. The derby will start at 4 p.m. For an entry fee of P5,500, the guaranteed prize is P200,000. Call 725 -6563, 725 -5369.

**RACING TIPS**

**BY TOP CHOICE**

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—Silver Cho Cho (7), Hezabeltagio (1), Hukom (5), Beautiful Jaeda/Order Of Merit (6)
Race 2—(Qrt/Tri)—Balang Kalookan (5), Western Dancer (1), Top Quest (4), Jokes Only (7)
Race 3—(Qrt/Tri)—Danseuse (6), Good Landing (2), Sir Brendan Jean (5), Fairy Queen (3)
Race 4—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Luck of The Irish (2), Showtime Lady (7), Cool Town (9), Sweet Talk (8), Bunker Buster (6)
Race 5—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Screaming Eagle (1), Daldalera/Mountain Eagle (2), Jaw Breaker (4), Simply Strnong (10), Gigi's Gold (8)
Race 6—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Dixie The Younger (10), Mr. Victory (2), Sutter's Royal (1), Dona Nene (5), Prime Enforcer (4)
Race 7—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Love and Money (8), Diamond Sky (3), Ocean Dignity (2), Record Holder (6), Alert One (4)
Race 8—(Qrt/Tri)—Don't Tell Ella (3), Adam's Call (1), Conquer D'Sun (2), Hidden Pleasure (5)
Race 9—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Ingay Ingay (2), Mary Jane Bomb (3), Lovely Tara/The Strategist (4), Skip Away (8), Wynona Raider (6), Jayvie's Godfather (7)



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# SPORTS

## Three fresh squads, new format spice up V League

**THREE NEW TEAMS AND A NEW format are expected to make the second conference of the V League volleyball tournament presented by Shakey's more exciting.**

After giving way to the staging of the 23rd Southeast Asian Games last year, big-time women's volleyball action returns April 22 with an eight-team field at the Rizal Coliseum.

Philippine Christian University, UAAP runner-up Adamson and University of the East have entered the tournament for the first time, even as former champion Santo Tomas took a leave after failing to assemble a competitive team.

The Tigresses, who won the initial staging in 2004, lost the core of its team to graduation.

But the depth of the competing field remains as talent-laden as ever with UAAP and defending champion La Salle eyeing a third straight title.

Ateneo, Far Eastern, Lyceum and San Sebastian are the other teams aiming to foil the tournament's first-ever "three-peat" by the Lady Archers.

"We can expect an action-packed tournament because of the higher level of competition," said Emilio "Jun" Bernardino, president of the organizing Sports Vision Management Group Inc.

The new format, meanwhile, will have the eight teams playing a one-round elimination with the top five squads advancing to the semifinals. The first stage of the playoffs will be a double-round robin where each of the five teams will carry over their elimination round records to the second stage.

An incentive scheme—the old "5-of-8 rule" adopted by the PBA years ago—will be used for the tournament. This will allow any team in the semifinals to challenge the second-placed team after the round in a playoff for the second berth in the championship series.

Playdates are set on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays starting at 4 p.m. at the Rizal Coliseum and Ninoy Aquino Stadium in Manila.

### Second BMW Golf Cup leg fires off at Mimosa today

CLARK FIELD, PAMPANGA—A FIELD OF 120 PLAYers tees off today in the second leg of the BMW Golf Cup International at the Acacia and Lakeview layouts of the Mimosa complex here. Presented by Premier Cars BMW, the event will use the Stableford scoring and will stake championship trophies in the men's A and B classes and in the Ladies' division. The top three placers in each category will qualify to the National Finals slated in October at Eagle Ridge for a chance to play for the Philippines in one of the biggest amateur events in the world. The 18-hole event, the second in a seven-leg series which will determine the Philippine representatives to the BMW Golf Cup World Finals in Fancourt, South Africa, is being supported by Corporate Guarantee and Insurance Co., Makati Shangri-La, Kerastase, Petron and Mizuno. The BMW Golf Cup International is one of the largest amateur golf tournaments in the world in terms of participation. Over 150,000 players are vying in a series of qualifying legs all over the world.

### Mayor Sagun Cup gets going at Sherwood Hills

THE INDIGENT CHILDREN OF TRECE MARTIRES, Cavite, will be the prime beneficiaries of today's 1st Mayor Jun Sagun's Golf Tournament at the Sherwood Hills Golf Club course. Tee-off is from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. The 18-hole tournament has drawn the support of companies and individuals. More than 100 golfers are vying in the event which has as major sponsors Sherwood Hills, Cavdeal, Rezcoat, Pure and Rich, Pure Bev, Atlanta Coatings Inc., Industrial Galvanizers, Somico Steel Industries and Somico Steel Corp. Hole sponsors are Sen. Bong Revilla, Warbird Security, Luis Pastor, Gen. Trias Mayor JonJon Ferrer, Imus Mayor Homer Saquilayan, Rosario Mayor Renato Abutan and Amadeo Mayor Albert Ambagan. Minor sponsors include Carmona Mayor Dahlia Loyola, Indang Mayor Lope Tepora, Cavite City Mayor Bernardo Paredes, Tagaytay Mayor Abraham Tolentino, Silang Mayor Clarito Poblete, Bacoor Mayor Jessie Castillo.

### TEE SHOTS

**CHAMP** 2nd Penguin Cup Champion. Stephanie Yu and lawyer Mike Toledo show their trophies after besting the field and winning the 2nd Penguin Cup tournament at the Legends course of the Manila Southwoods Golf and Country Club.

**GOLF FOR COUPLES: Organizers of the 3rd AJ Cup, which tees off today at Wack Wack Golf and Country Club, get together to finalize the annual fund-raising event organized by the All for Jesus Foundation Inc. headed by POC chair Robert Aventajado (third from right, seated) and his wife Tinette. Other committee members are (from left seated), Ricky Manalo, Dick Valenzona, Mon Mayuga, Relly Santos, Albert Sia, Troy Inciong, Rey Medina. Standing from left, Noel Deyto, Bong Santiago, Rey Parcutela, Edu Perez and Bob Barbiran. Beneficiaries are couples who will attend marriage encounter seminars, such as the one scheduled May 26-28 at the Mater Cristi Retreat Center in Pillilia, Rizal.**

### 76rs 'Swing for a Cause' up at Valley

THE THIRD 76RS "SWING FOR A CAUSE' GOLF TOURNAMENT tees off today at the Executive course of the Valley Golf and Country Club in Antipolo City. Hosted by the Samar National School Class 1976 Foundation Inc., a non-profit organization headed by lawyer Plaridel J. Bohol II, proceeds of the tournament will go to the school. Registration starts at 9 a.m. while tee-off is from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Tournament fee is P2,000 (P1,200 for Valley members). Format is System 36. Among the event's sponsors are PCSO, Roqson Industrial Sales Center, Petron Sales Center, Innove Globe Communications, Winlink Travel Services Inc. and Soniare Club Spa.

### Ford team shootout under way

THE FORD NATIONAL TEAM SHOOTOUT GOT UNDER WAY IN three more courses recently in what has been billed as one of the country's biggest amateur team series. Tournaments teed off at Sta. Elena last Tuesday, Marapara in Bacolod Wednesday and at Forest Hills yesterday. The tournament is a four-man scramble open to members of the Fed Golf's 32-member clubs. Each club's top five teams will represent their club in the satellite finals. Elimination rounds have already been held at Alabang, Sherwood Hills, Pueblo de Oro, Royal Northwoods, Tagaytay Highlands and Midlands, Orchard, Mt. Malarayat and Eastridge.

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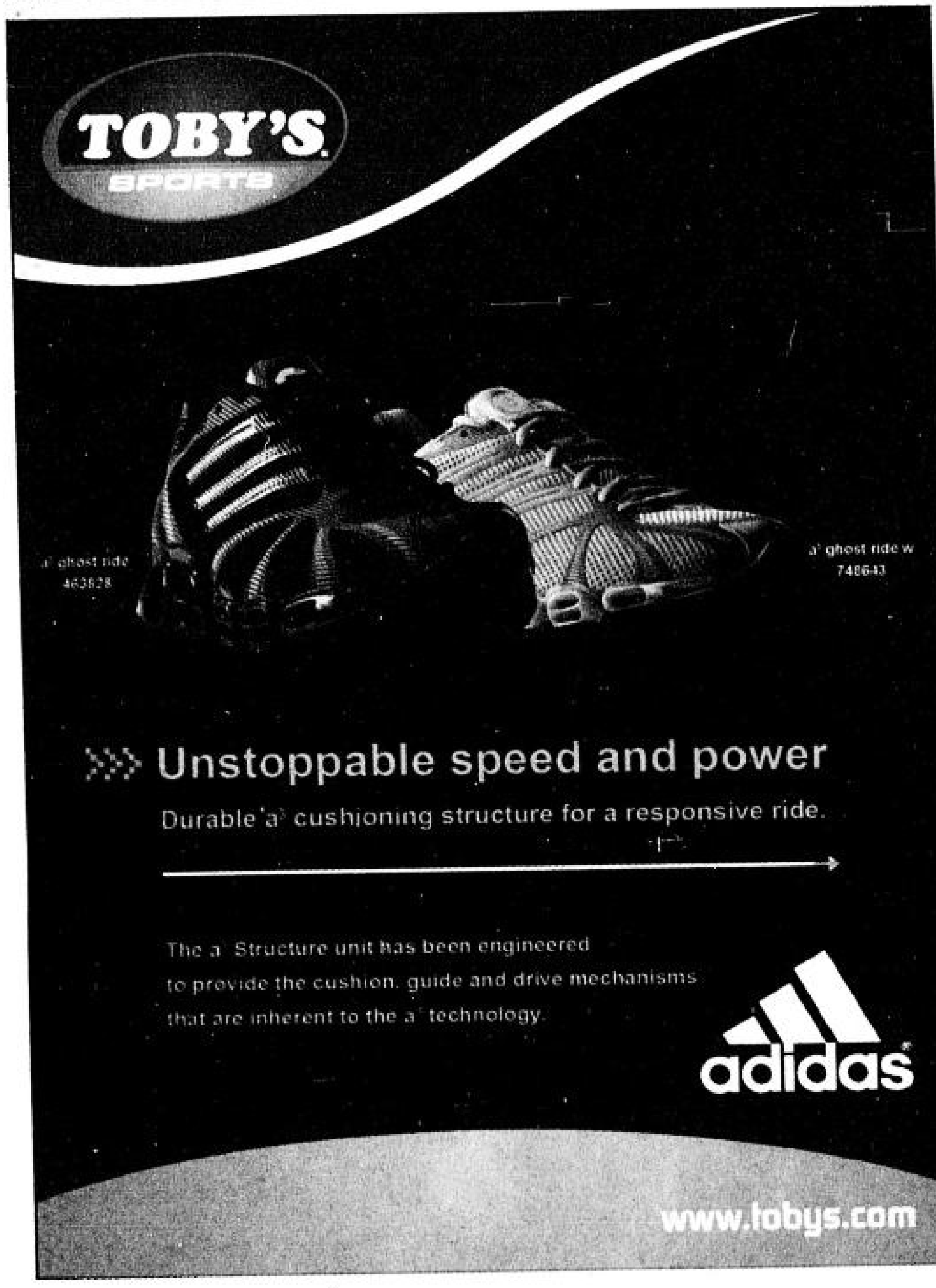

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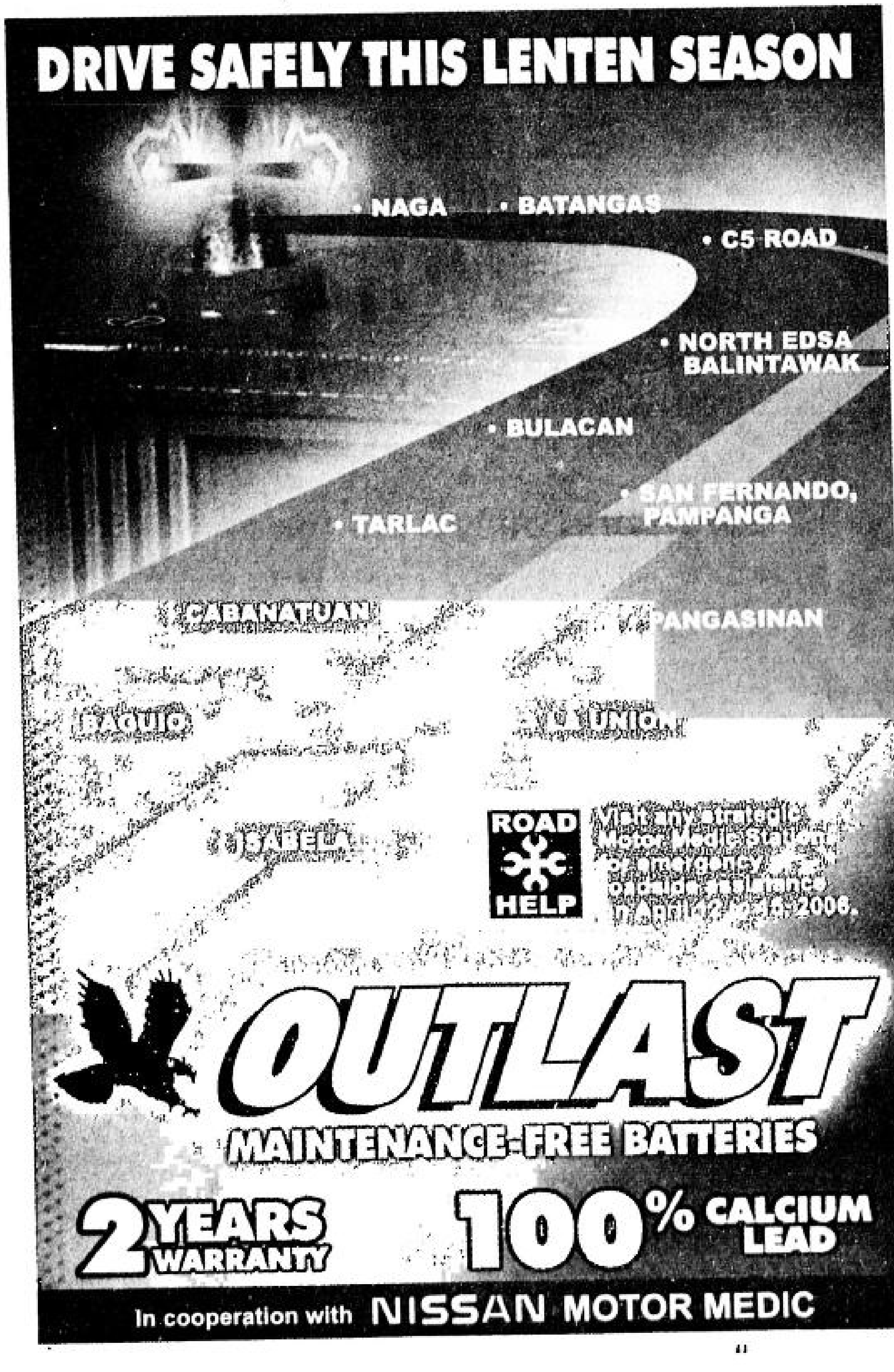

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# ENTERTAINMENT

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Emmie G. Velarde
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# Kinks in filming 'Darna' revealed

By Marinel R. Cruz

THE DELAY IN THE FILMING OF THE MOVIE version of Mars Ravelo's "Darna" is being caused by "misunderstanding" between parties other than GMA 7, according to a *Kapuso* Network executive.

"We're ready to sign the contract. We're just waiting for the Ravelos and Yonzon to settle their differences," GMA 7 program manager Redgie Magno told INQUIRER Entertainment in a phone interview last week.

Magno was referring to the family of the late *komiks* novelist and Hugo "Buboy" Yonzon III, current license holder of "Darna."

Magno Comics, owned by Yonzon, produced the special golden anniversary edition of "Darna," with his son Zach as editor-in-chief.

In 2005, GMA 7 produced the TV version with Angel Locsin playing the lead role and Alessandra de Rossi as her arch-enemy, Valentina. The series still holds the record for highest rating in TV history—52.1 percent for its fourth episode, followed by "Encantadia" at 47.2 percent and then "Darna's" premiere telecast at 47.1 percent. The network's contract for the TV serialization expires in June 2006.

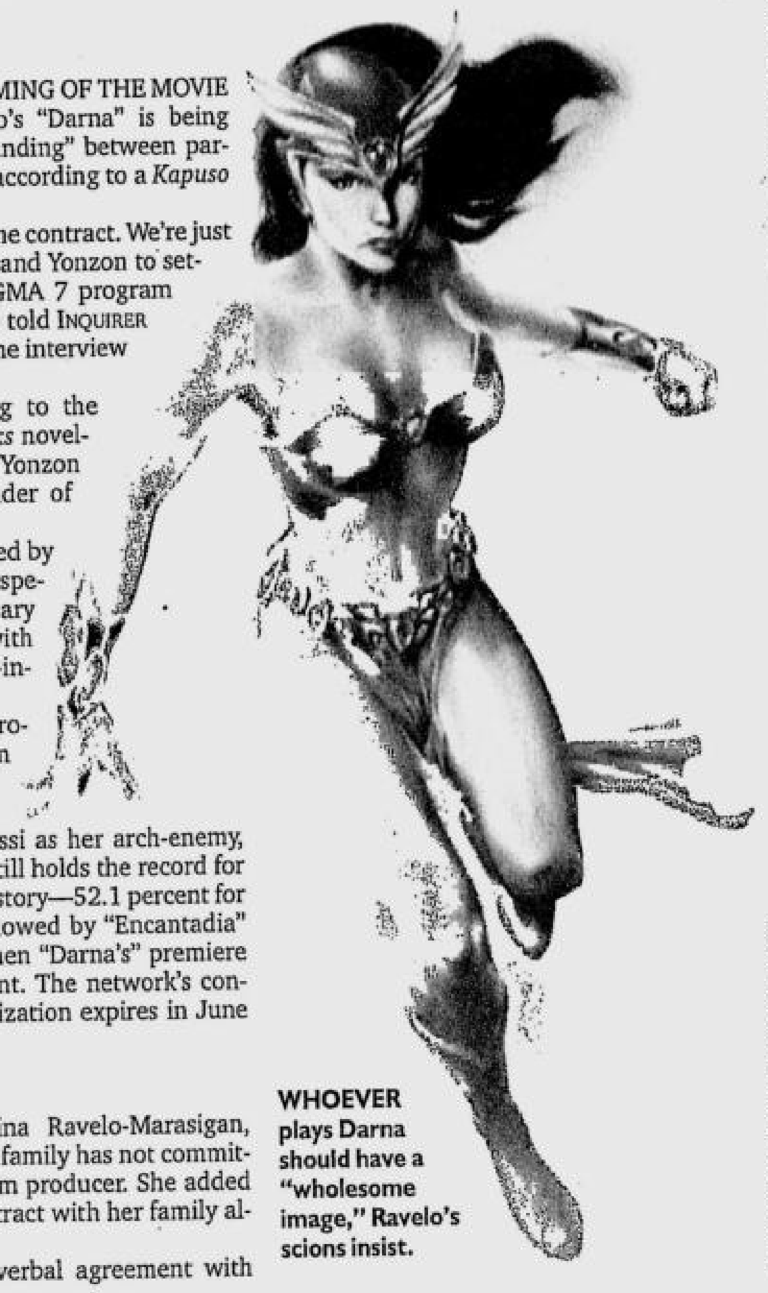
## No commitments

According to Regina Ravelo-Marasigan, daughter of Mars, the family has not committed "Darna" to any film producer. She added that the Yonzons' contract with her family also expires in June.

"We only have a verbal agreement with GMA 7. We've not signed any contract with them," explained Regina, adding that three other film producers are currently interested in "Darna."

"If GMA 7 decides not to do the movie version, we plan to give 'Darna' a rest," she added. "This is so we could concentrate on our father's other works. He has over 200 titles. We're currently talking with

KINKS/ A2-4



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WHOEVER plays Darna should have a "wholesome image," Ravelo's scions insist.

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# 'Little Big Star' finals tomorrow, six survivors meet the press

**MAKISIG Morales**

**By Nini Valera**

SIX ASPIRING YOUNG STARS compete tomorrow night for the "Little Big Star" title even as one of the contestants has emerged as a runaway favorite in the Little division (there's a Big division).

There were more than 24 hopefuls at the start of the elimination round when the talent search premiered on ABS-CBN in September.

The six survivors were paraded on Wednesday before the media and given a taste of what's in store for them when they become legitimate stars.

Makisig Morales, 9, an early standout, held his own as INQUIRER Entertainment asked several hard questions about his chances for vic

LITTLE/ A2-3

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| GRANDMA'S BOY<br>R13<br>1:30,3:30,5:30,7:30,9:30 | BASIC INSTINCT 2<br>R18<br>6:55pm,9:20pm | ICE AGE 2<br>G<br>11:30,1:30,3:30,<br>5:30,7:30,9:30 |

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③ NANNY MCPHEE
MTRCB GP 2.00, 6.40
JUST FRIENDS
MTRCB. R-13 4.20, 9.00

④ THE HILLS HAVE EYES
MTRCB. R-18
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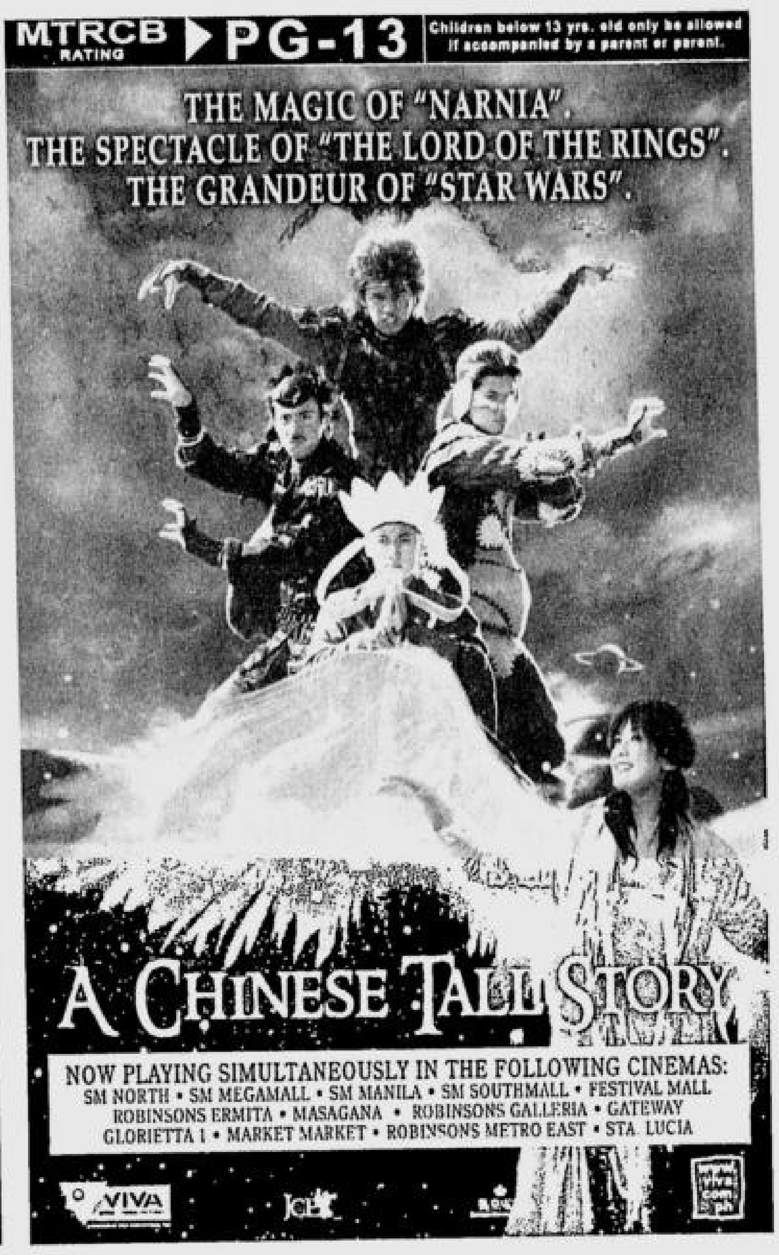

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|---|---|---|---|---|
| G1 GLORIETTA 1 | 1 THE HILLS HAVE EYES | 2 ICE AGE 2: THE MELTDOWN | 3 CHINESE TALL STORY | 4 MOMENTS OF LOVE |
| G4 GLORIETTA 4 | 1 THE HILLS HAVE EYES | 2 GRANDMA'S BOY | 3 THX BANDIDAS 12:05, 2:10, 4:15, 7:20, 8:25, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS | |
| | 4 BASIC INSTINCT 2 | 5 MOMENTS OF LOVE | 6 ICE AGE 2: THE MELTDOWN | 7 JUST FRIENDS |
| GB1 GREENBELT 1 | 1 THE HILLS HAVE EYES | 2 ICE AGE 2: THE MELTDOWN | | |
| GB3 GREENBELT 3 | 1 THX BANDIDAS 1:05, 3:10, 5:15, 7:20, 9:25, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS | 2 THX ICE AGE 2: THE MELTDOWN 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS | | |
| | 3 RENT 1:15, 3:45, 6:15, 8:45, 11:15 GUARANTEED SEATS | 4 JUST FRIENDS 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS | 5 THE HILLS HAVE EYES 2:10, 4:30, 6:50, 9:10, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS | |
| ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER | 1 THX ICE AGE 2: THE MELTDOWN | 2 BANDIDAS | | |
| | 3 THE HILLS HAVE EYES | 4 GRANDMA'S BOY | 5 JUST FRIENDS | |
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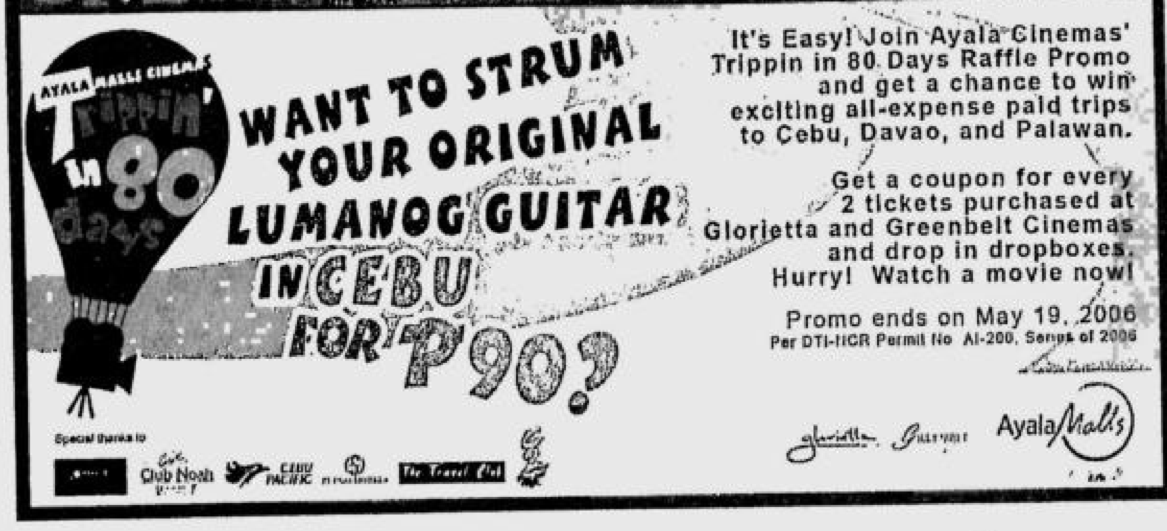

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## Makisig Morales knows his fans are behind him. But it is the judges who will decide, he says, and the competition is 'really tough'

From page A2-2

tory.

"I'm not sure I'll win," he admitted candidly in Filipino. "The other contestants are tough."

He named Rhap Salazar, another 9-year-old, as one of his stiffest opponents.

"He could beat me because of his high voice," said Makisig, known for his renditions of Basil Valdez songs.

Then there's Kyle Balili, 6, the youngest among the three finalists in the Little division.

"Most of the judges find him cute," Makisig said.

But most his fans also find Makisig cute.

"I know that," he said. "But they're not the ones judging."

If he wins, Makisig will bring fortune to his family.

His father, Uldarico Morales, had quit his job to watch over Makisig during tapings and guest appearances in other shows.

### Cub scout

Recalling other contests he had wet his feet in before "Little Big Star," he said. "Sometimes, when I win, I bring home P20,000. If I don't win, P15,000 or P5,000." That way, he added, he helped in the family expenses.

Makisig, second son of Uldarico and Jacqueline Morales, is a Grade 3 student in San Mateo Rizal, and has been named best in Music and Outstanding Cub Scout in school.

He said he learned to sing after he grabbed the microphone from his sister Mayumi, whom his father had been coaching.

"My father believes old songs should be [made] popular again," Makisig says. "His favorite singer is Basil Valdez."

The three finalists in the Big division are Sam Concepcion, Charice Pempengco, and Gian Carlo Barbona.

The show is hosted by Sarah Geronimo, herself a veteran of amateur singing tilts.

## FEEDBACK

### Don't forget

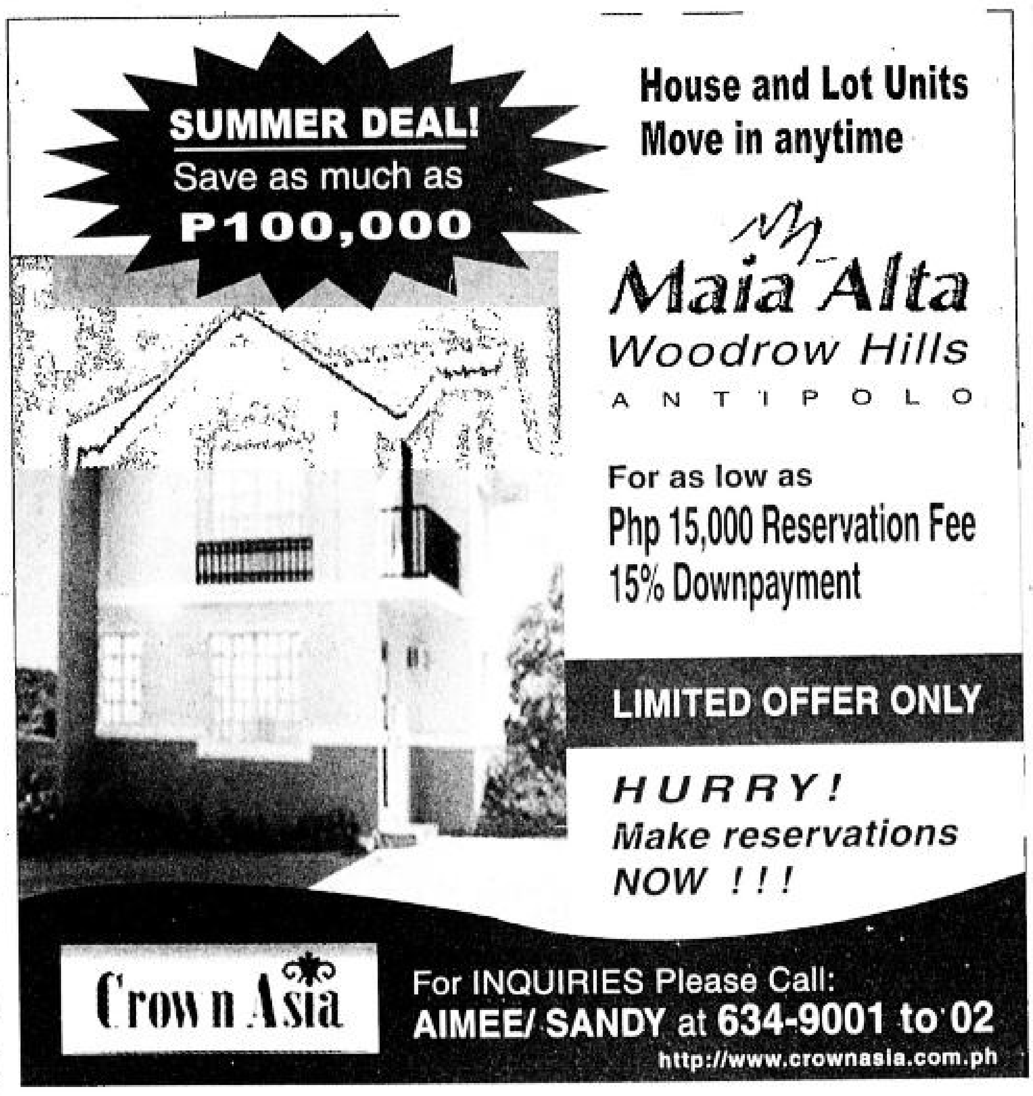
From Emilia Isaac (e2nalang@yahoo.com) Hong Kong:

Sure, Ruffa has accomplished a lot since the MMFF scam, but let's not forget how she landed those hosting jobs in US. It was because she was banned from RP TV and movies as a punishment for the scam!

### Telenovelas

From JD Caloza (jd-caloza@gmail.com), Toad Hall, Kingston, ACT:

I agree that TV soaps are a way for people to escape from reality. But aren't Asian Novelas even more realistic than "Panday" and "Encantadia"? By the way, the Asian Novelas we watch on the tube are incomplete versions. The most developed countries like Japan and the fastest growing economies like China are even more obsessed with Asian telenovelas than we are.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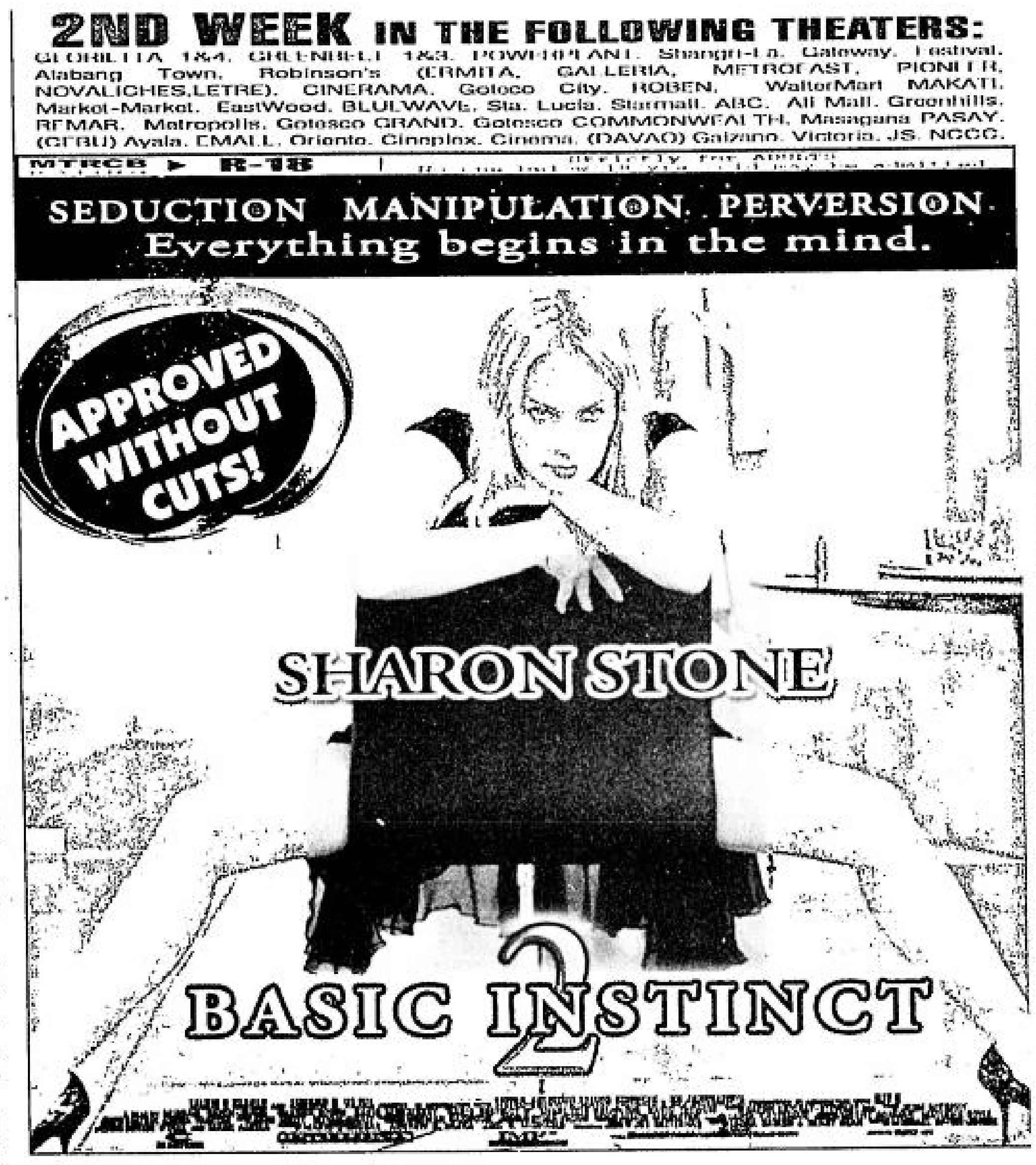
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MTRCB ▶ R-18

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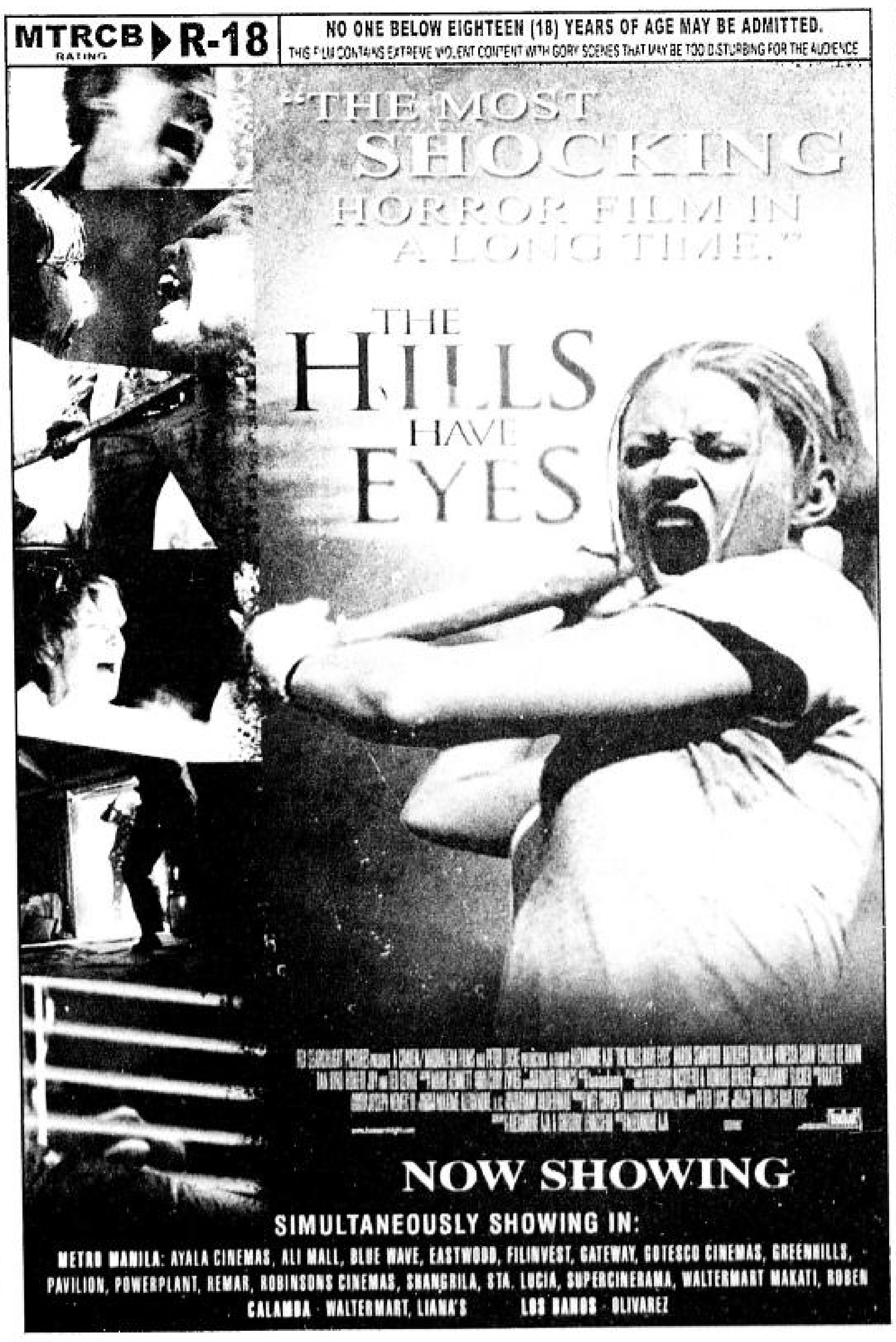
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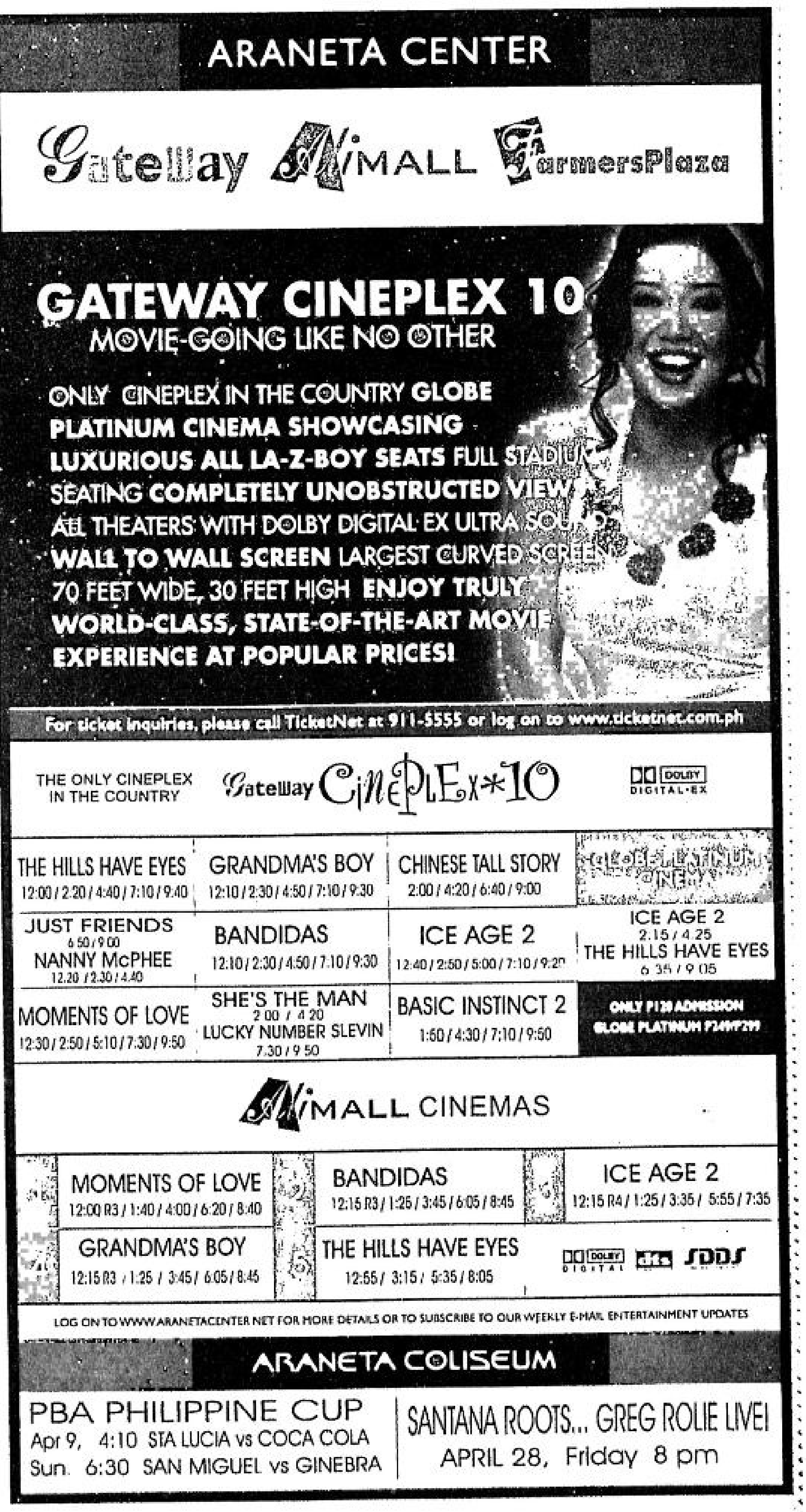
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| JUST FRIENDS<br>6:50 / 9:00<br>NANNY McPHEE<br>12:20 / 2:30 / 4:40 | BANDIDAS<br>12:10 / 2:30 / 4:50 / 7:10 / 9:30 | ICE AGE 2<br>12:40 / 2:50 / 5:00 / 7:10 / 9:2 | ICE AGE 2<br>2:15 / 4:25<br>THE HILLS HAVE EYES<br>6:35 / 9:05 |
| MOMENTS OF LOVE<br>12:30 / 2:50 / 5:10 / 7:30 / 9:50 | SHE'S THE MAN<br>2:00 / 4:20<br>LUCKY NUMBER SLEVIN<br>7:30 / 9:50 | BASIC INSTINCT 2<br>1:50 / 4:30 / 7:10 / 9:50 | ONLY P120 ADMISSION<br>GLOBE PLATINUM P249/P299 |

Ali MALL CINEMAS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| MOMENTS OF LOVE<br>12:00 R3 / 1:40 / 4:00 / 6:20 / 8:40 | BANDIDAS<br>12:15 R3 / 1:25 / 3:45 / 6:05 / 8:45 | ICE AGE 2<br>12:15 R4 / 1:25 / 3:35 / 5:55 / 7:35 |
| GRANDMA'S BOY<br>12:15 R3 / 1:25 / 3:45 / 6:05 / 8:45 | THE HILLS HAVE EYES<br>12:55 / 3:15 / 5:35 / 8:05 | DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS |

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APRIL 28, Friday 8 pm

# ENTERTAINMENT

WINNER of the London International Jazz Competition, Filipino!

# Mon David, 'evolving artist'

**By Pocholo Concepcion**
*Contributor*

WHENEVER MON DAVID PERforms, he wins the hearts of his audience. Not many people are aware of it, but he's an accomplished musician whose work throughout the years truly deserves recognition.

TAKE FIVE

When he bested 106 vocalists from 27 countries in the recent London International Jazz Competition, David suddenly became a Goliath in the eyes of the curious.

In this chat conducted while he was en route back home, the 52-year-old "evolving artist" reveals why he enjoys his space and making music—a process invariably transformed into an intimate, fulfilling and spiritual experience.

**Have you always been a jazz artist? When and how did you first turn on to jazz, and why did you pursue it?**

The jazz side of my musicality came gradually and rather slowly. In the earlier years of my career, I was immersed in the music scene doing pop classics, OPM (Original Pilipino Music), standards, R&B, etc. While doing all these, I would often surprise myself and my audience with bits of improvisations. I started to enjoy it. And then I discovered the music of Mark Murphy, Bobby McFerrin, John Hendricks, Kurt Elling, Bill Evans and other jazz icons. They made me experience the "pure joy" of creating and performing music in a spontaneous way... of being "in the zone," "in the moment."

**Tell us about the many hats you wore in the local music scene. What was the most fulfilling?**

I was the Apo Hiking Society's drummer for six years; a vocal coach to some of my colleagues in the industry... I've been an independent record producer (for all my albums—"Salamat sa Mga Alaala," "Soulitude," "Abe Mu Ku," "Life and Times"). I founded the vocal ensemble Fourplay with Butch Dans; was part of the original Ang Fourgettables; was part of the band Jazz Fiesta with Tots Tolentino, Colby dela Calzada, Joey Quirino, Koyang Avenir, Jay Cayuca, Boyet Pigao and Angelica. The most fulfilling is recording and producing my own music, expressing my own vision in a style and form that best represents them. The other fulfilling aspect is being again, "in the zone" with your favorite musicians.

**You used to be known as "the fourth Apo"?**

I was their vocal coach and drummer for many years and it produced this certain "chemistry" that resulted in various musical collaborations (record productions/vocal arrangements/live a cappella performances etc.), and evolved into a lasting friendship.

**How do you assess the progress of your career in our own country?**

It's been a long struggle. I think it's mainly because of the unpopular genre that I picked to focus on. In most cases, making jazz a part of your repertoire is [tantamount to] giving your career the kiss of death, so to speak, especially in a very "pop/commercial" oriented industry. But on the whole I consider this an enriching (not financially) and continually evolving career. I'm quite satisfied going on my own pace and enjoying my space.

**How did you prepare for the London competition?**

I learned about it through Lynn Sherman. Later, I was endorsed by the British Council Philippines through Susan Arcega and Tots Tolentino. I decided I was going to enjoy meeting and bonding with fellow musicians from different parts of the world, learn from them and—this may sound corny—do my best and let God take care of the rest.

**The INQUIRER front-page story of your London triumph mentioned something about your going into a "trance" during the competition.**

It's a common experience (being "in the zone," "in a trance") especially when surrounded by artists you respect, with a high level of musicality in the atmosphere, interacting, giving-taking, allowing the music to flow with you and just letting go. It could be the most intimate, fulfilling, spiritual experience.

**You've been researching on the roots of Pampanga music. What are your interesting discoveries?**

I continue to [explore] our native tongue's beautiful nuances through melodic love songs, traditional folk tunes, other song forms like the *basulto* and *pulosa*, etc. Values, traditions and historical elements are expressed in these tunes. Consequently, these tunes redefine the true character of the Kapampangan. Along with the "standard" Kapampangan songs, I'd like to introduce some of my compositions for the present and future generations to appreciate. When you visit the Holy Angel Center for Kapampangan studies, you'll encounter this slogan: "Become a better Filipino by being a better Kapampangan." I'd like to stretch that to: "Become a better citizen of the world by being a good Filipino."

**Are you comfortable with being tagged as a Pinoy jazz artist?**

Ok *lang*, but I'm not too hot about it. I'd rather be labeled "an evolving musical artist" with jazz as one of my facets.

**Name some musicians that you idolize, admire or respect.**

Tots Tolentino for his very high level of musicality, his dedication and gentle heart. The prolific songwriter and poet Gary Granada for his wit and depth in the way he expresses his views and outlook through his songs. Jim Paredes, songwriter and author, for his inspiring thoughts and knack for crystallizing life's realities and mysteries. Mark Murphy, for his daring and courageous vocal style. Bobby McFerrin for his innovativeness and vocal flexibility and creativity. Keith Jarrett, for his vulnerability and sheer talent. Bill Evans, for his "Genius"—yes, that's a capital G. The young Kurt Elling for his spunk and spirit. Michel Legrand for his beautiful melodies. And George Canseco for his immortal love songs.

AT THE recent signing of the contract to serialize "Captan Barbell": GMA 7 EVP and COO Jimmy Duavit, Regina Ravelo Marasigan and GMA 7 president Felipe Gozon.

# Kinks in filming 'Darna' revealed

From page A2-1

other networks, too."

Regina refused to comment on the reported disagreement with the Yonzons. But she admitted that the contract pertaining to the serialization of "Darna" was coursed through them.

But an industry source said some Ravelo family members felt Buboy Yonzon was a mere "tag-along" and should not be given any part in their (Ravelos) dealings with GMA 7 in relation to the movie verson.

Yonzon is director of the Public Affairs Staff of the Department of Agrarian Reform, an editorial cartoonist, and a realist painter, according to an article posted on www.planetphilippines.com.

"None of the Ravelos were present during the making of the tele-series," said a member of the "Darna" TV crew. "But Yonzon was always there. He either approved or vetoed ideas pitched by the writers."

Before a film or production outfit could produce any of Ravelo's creations, they should first agree to a number of conditions stipulated in the contract, according to Regina.

Ravelo is also the creator of Dyesebel, Captain Barbell, Lastikman, as well as drama narratives "Roberta," "Trudis Liit," "Maruja" and "Basahang Ginto." Ravelo also created "Bondying" and "Facifica Falayfay" and wrote "Wanted Perfect Mother."

## Style guide

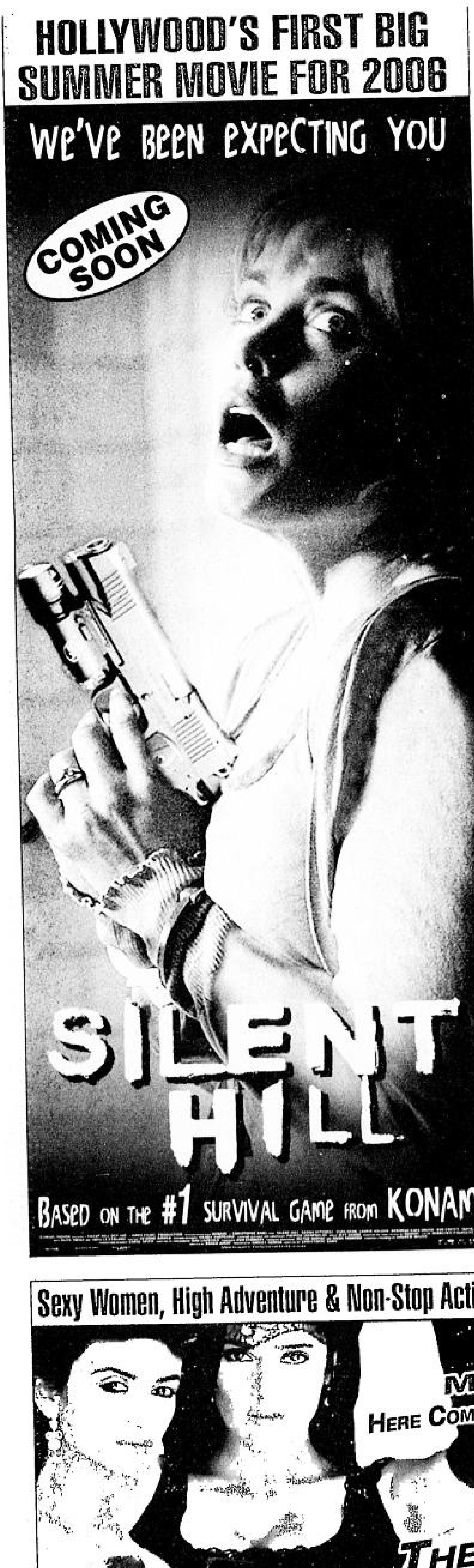
Aside from the required posting of Ravelo's name before the film or show's title, the producer must follow a "style guide," especially for characters like Darna or Captain Barbell.

GMA 7 and the Ravelos formally signed a contract for the serialization of "Captain Barbell" in March. The contract is good for a year and a half, said Regina.

The style guide includes costume and logo designs. The producer must "consult" the Ravelos before making any changes in the design, she added.

As in the cases of TV shows "Darna" and "Captain Barbell," Regina said the contract required that a representative from the Ravelo family be a member of the shows' creative

KINKS/ A2-5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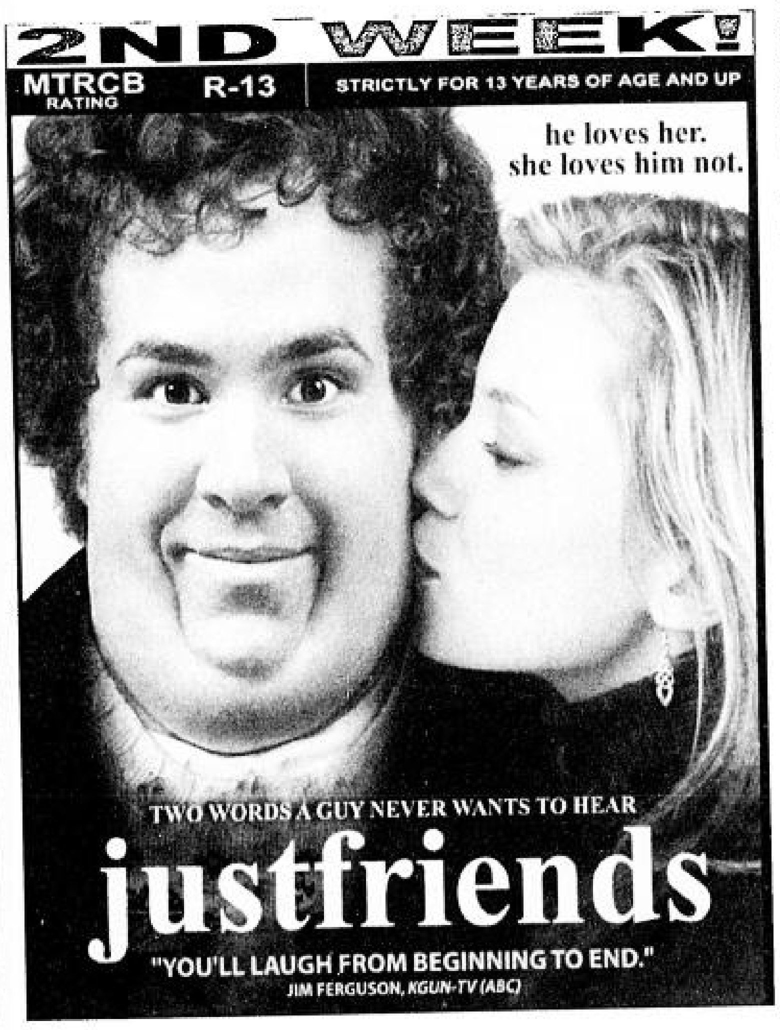
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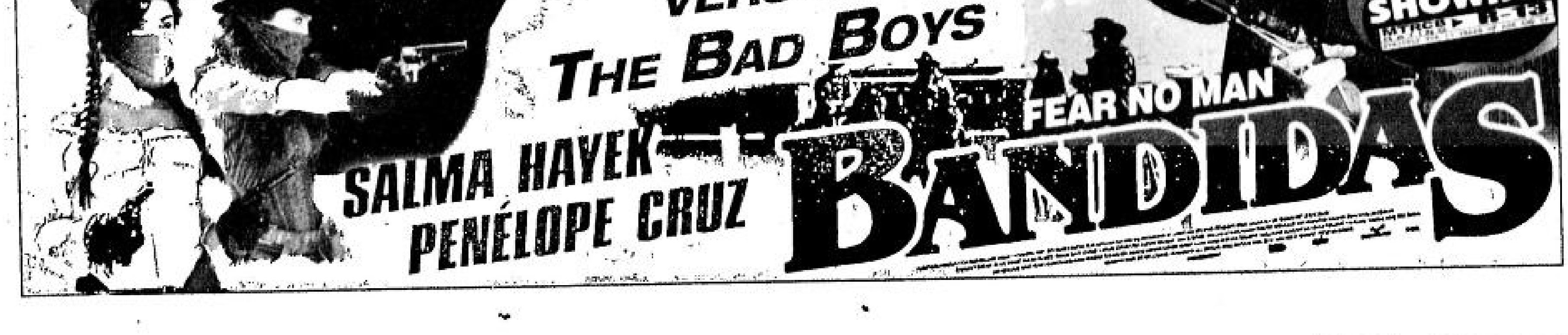
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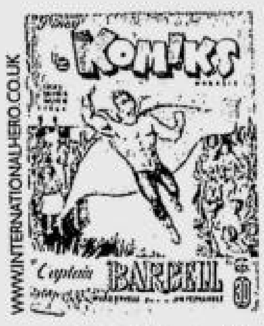


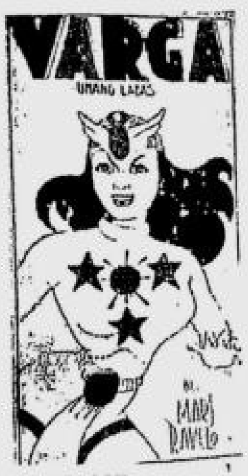
**"CAPTAIN Barbell"**

From page A2-4

team.

"We want to make sure that at least one of us participates in the brainstorming," she stressed.

Also included in the contract is the provision requiring the producer to submit to the Ravelos a copy of the script or story line for their approval, Regina said.



**"DARNA"**

Another important part of the contract is a "morality clause," which states that actors playing the lead characters should not figure in scandals, controversies or drug issues, or appear in bold films.

"If the project would not add value to the character, we'd rather not do it," Regina explained. "This is why the image of the actor playing the lead must be wholesome. We've turned down a lot of offers in the past because of this."

In the upcoming TV series, Richard Gutierrez will portray Captain Barbell and his alter-ego, Enteng.

Bob Soler was the first actor to play the role in 1965. He was followed by Dolphy, Edu Manzano and Bong Revilla.

## SHOW TIME

## Four Faces of Woman

A REPEAT OF "THE Four Faces of Woman Dance-Exhibit: Celebrating Women and Spirit"—first held on March 16 and 17 at the Vargas Museum in UP Diliman—was held yesterday at the NCCA Lobby, Gen. Luna St., Intramuros. The last presentation is set on April 25, 7:30 p.m., at St. Scholastica's College in Manila.

The multi-media presentation uses dance pieces and visual arts to illustrate the phases that women go through in their lives. It is a collaboration of four women in the visual arts and four women in dance who have been inspired by the Four Faces of Woman Workshops that originated in Sydney, Australia in 1993. Call (0919) 606-5410.

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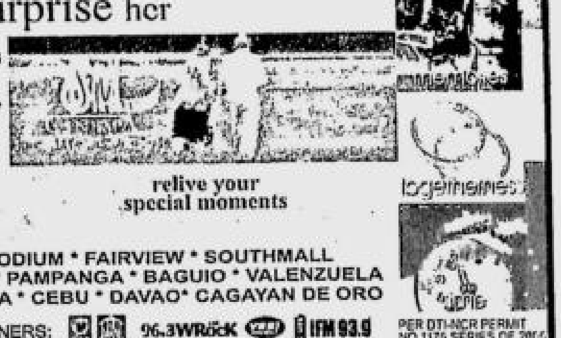

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ICE AGE 2
12:00 FS / 12:30 MF / 02:35
04:40 / 06:45 / 08:30LFS
08:50 LMF / 10:20 END

BANDIDAS
02:00 FS / 02:25 MF / 04:35
06:45 / 8:25LFS
09:00 LMF / 10:40 END

**SM MEGACINEMA**

1 BANDIDAS
10:40FS / 11:10 MF / 01:20
03:30 / 05:40
07:50 / 09:30LFS
010:00 LMF / 11:40 END
2 GRANDMA'S BOY
3 ICE AGE 2
4 RESERVED
5 CHINESE TALL STORY
6 JUST FRIENDS
7 SHE'S THE MAN
8 FINAL DESTINATION 3
9 VENOM
10 MOMENTS OF LOVE
11 NANNY McPHEE
12 V FOR VENDETTA

**SM CITY NORTH EDSA**

1 ICE AGE 2
2 JUST FRIENDS
3 MOMENTS OF LOVE
4 RESERVED
5 CHINESE TALL STORY
6 GRANDMA'S BOY
7 ULTRAVIOLET
8 VENOM

**SM CITY DASMARINAS**

1 ULTRAVIOLET
2 HOUSE OF FURY
3 MOMENTS OF LOVE
4 ICE AGE 2

**SM CITY FAIRVIEW**

1 NANNY McPHEE
2 ULTRAVIOLET
3 JUST FRIENDS
4 VENOM
5 FINAL DESTINATION 3
6 GRANDMA'S BOY
7 BANDIDAS
8 MOMENTS OF LOVE
9 ICE AGE 2
10 FEARLESS
11 V FOR VENDETTA
12 SHE'S THE MAN

**SM CITY STA. MESA**

1 ICE AGE 2
2 JUST FRIENDS
3 BANDIDAS
4 GRANDMA'S BOY
5 MOMENTS OF LOVE
6 VENOM
7 NANNY McPHEE
8 ULTRAVIOLET
9 SHE'S THE MAN
10 V FOR VENDETTA

**SM CITY BICUTAN**

1 ICE AGE 2
2 MOMENTS OF LOVE
3 JUST FRIENDS
4 BANDIDAS

**SM CITY SAN LAZARO**

1 ICE AGE 2
2 BANDIDAS
3 VENOM
4 GRANDMA'S BOY
5 JUST FRIENDS
6 MOMENTS OF LOVE

**SM CITY MANILA**

1 GRANDMA'S BOY
2 ULTRAVIOLET
3 SHE'S THE MAN
4 ICE AGE 2
5 NANNY McPHEE
6 BANDIDAS
7 CHINESE TALL STORY
8 FINAL DESTINATION 3
9 MOMENTS OF LOVE
10 V FOR VENDETTA
11 VENOM
12 JUST FRIENDS

**SM CITY SOUTHMALL**

1 ICE AGE 2
2 BANDIDAS
3 MOMENTS OF LOVE
4 VENOM
5 GRANDMA'S BOY
6 JUST FRIENDS
7 CHINESE TALL STORY
8 SHE'S THE MAN
9 ULTRAVIOLET

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1 ICE AGE 2
2 MOMENTS OF LOVE
3 SHE'S THE MAN
4 JUST FRIENDS

**SM CITY SUCAT**

1 JUST FRIENDS
2 ICE AGE 2
3 MOMENTS OF LOVE
4 BANDIDAS

### LUZON

**SM CITY BAGUIO**

1 MOMENTS OF LOVE
2 SHE'S THE MAN
3 FINAL DESTINATION 3
4 ICE AGE 2

**SM CITY MARILAO**

1 VENOM
2 MOMENTS OF LOVE
3 ICE AGE 2
4 FINAL DESTINATION 3

**SM CITY BATANGAS**

1 HOUSE OF FURY
2 MOMENTS OF LOVE
3 ICE AGE 2
4 V FOR VENDETTA

**SM CITY BACOOR**

1 NANNY McPHEE
2 SHE'S THE MAN
3 ICE AGE 2
4 ULTRAVIOLET
5 BANDIDAS
6 MOMENTS OF LOVE
7 VENOM
8 FINAL DESTINATION 3

**SM CITY STA. ROSA**

1 SHAGGY DOG
2 ULTRAVIOLET
3 MOMENTS OF LOVE
4 ICE AGE 2

**SM CITY PAMPANGA**

1 ICE AGE 2
2 ULTRAVIOLET
3 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
4 NANNY McPHEE
5 MOMENTS OF LOVE
6 MOMENTS OF LOVE

**SM CITY LUCENA**

1 HOUSE OF FURY
2 ICE AGE 2
3 V FOR VENDETTA
4 MOMENTS OF LOVE

**SM CITY MOLINO**

1 ICE AGE 2
2 MOMENTS OF LOVE
3 SHE'S THE MAN
4 VENOM

### VISAYAS MINDANAO

**SM CITY CEBU**

1 ULTRAVIOLET
11:20FS / 11:30 MF / 01:10
02:50 / 04:30 / 06:10
07:50 / 09:22 LFS
09:30 LMF / 11:00 END
2 FINAL DESTINATION 3
11:20FS / 11:30 MF / 01:30
3:30 / 05:30
07:30 / 09:10 LFS
09:30 LMF / 11:10 END
3 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
11:20FS / 11:30 MF
01:30 / 03:30 / 05:30
07:30 / 09:06 LFS
09:30 LMF / 11:05 END
4 NANNY McPHEE
5 GLORY ROAD
6 V FOR VENDETTA
7 MOMENTS OF LOVE
8 ICE AGE 2

**SM CITY ILOILO**

1 HOUSE OF FURY
2 RESERVED
3 ICE AGE 2
4 FINAL DESTINATION 3
5 MOMENTS OF LOVE
6 VENOM
7 RESERVED
8 THE DARK

**SM CITY DAVAO**

1 CASANOVA
2 NANNY McPHEE
3 MOMENTS OF LOVE
4 CASANOVA
5 SYRIANA
6 ICE AGE 2

**SM CITY CAGAYAN**

1 ULTRAVIOLET
2 SHAGGY DOG
3 HOUSE OF FURY
4 ICE AGE 2

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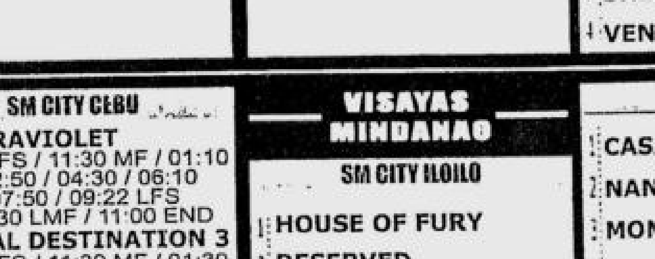

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1 LUCKY NUMBER SLEVIN • THX
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
2 ICE AGE 2
11:00 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50
3 BANDIDAS
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00
4 CHINESE TALL STORY
12:50 3:10 5:30 7:50 10:00
5 THE HILLS HAVE EYES
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00
6 GRANDMA'S BOY
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50
7 MOMENTS OF LOVE
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
8 JUST FRIENDS
1:25 3:35 5:45 7:55 10:00
9 SHE'S THE MAN
12:50 3:10 5:30 7:50 10:00
10 BASIC INSTINCT 2
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

### ERMITA 538-7809 to 12

1 ICE AGE 2 12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:25 10:00
2 CHINESE TALL STORY
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
3 JUST FRIENDS 12:00 1:40 3:20
BASIC INSTINCT 2 5:30 7:40 9:50
4 MOMENTS OF LOVE
12:30 -2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
5 BANDIDAS
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
6 GRANDMA'S BOY
12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:25 10.00
7 THE HILLS HAVE EYES
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

### METRO EAST 682-8193-682-8189

1 JUST FRIENDS
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00
2 ICE AGE 2
12:30 2:45 5:00 7:15 9:15
3 THE HILLS HAVE EYES
11:05 1:35 4:05 6:35 9:05
4 GRANDMA'S BOY
11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10
5 CHINESE TALL STORY
1:00 3.00 5.00 7:00 9.00
6 BASIC INSTINCT 2
1:05 3:40 6:20 9:05
7 BANDIDAS
11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10
8 MOMENTS OF LOVE
11:25 1:50 4:15 6:40 9:05

### NOVALICHES 935-3291 / 905-3229-30

1 THE HILLS HAVE EYES
2 BASIC INSTINCT 2
3 MOMENTS OF LOVE
4 LUCKY NUMBER SLEVIN
5 ICE AGE 2

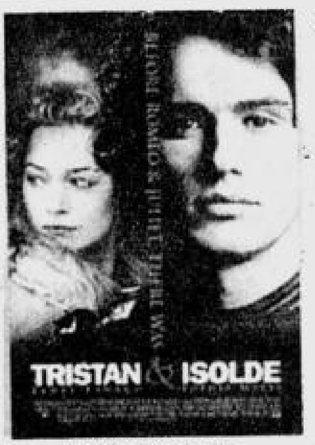
### CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575

1 THE HILLS HAVE EYES
2 MOMENTS OF LOVE
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

### PIONEER 687-5378

1 BANDIDAS
2 ICE AGE 2
3 THE HILLS HAVE EYES
4 GRANDMA'S BOY

## CHECK THIS OUT ▸▸



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2 VENOM
3 HOUSE OF FURY
4 MOMENTS OF LOVE
5 V FOR VENDETTA

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2 NANNY MCPHEE
3 MOMENTS OF LOVE
4 THE HILLS HAVE EYES

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2 MOMENTS OF LOVE
3 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2
4 ICE AGE 2

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4 THE HILLS HAVE EYES
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4 ICE AGE 2
5 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2
6 ULTRAVIOLET

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2 SHE'S THE MAN
3 ICE AGE 2
4 SAHGGY DOG
5 MOMENTS OF LOVE
6 NORTH COUNTRY

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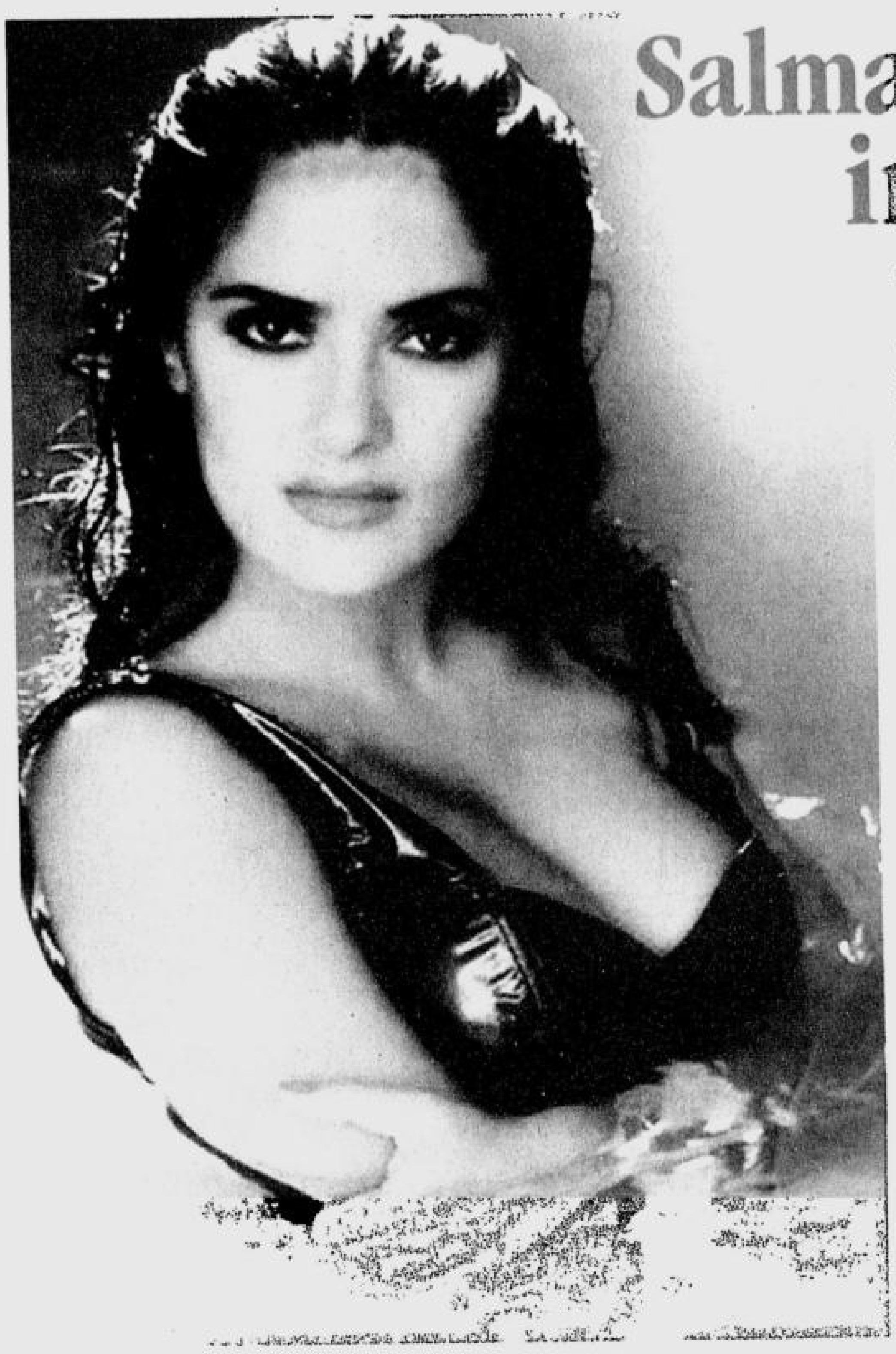
# Salma: Colin 'respectful' in our nude scene



IN HER OTHER new movie, "Bandidas," Salma and pal Penelope Cruz keep their clothes on.

**ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD**

*Ruben V. Nepales*

LOS ANGELES—**COLIN FARrell**, Hollywood's "bad boy," was a gentleman in his nude scene with **Salma Hayek** in "Ask the Dust," according to the actress.

Colin has been in the news for suing **Nicole Narain**, a former Playboy Playmate, to stop the release of a sexually explicit tape which they had made several years ago.

Salma, whose sultry looks come from a Lebanese father and a Mexican mother, said in a press con that the "respectful" behavior of Colin made it possible for her to appear naked with the actor in a beach scene. To hear Salma narrate how she overcame nerves, Colin and director **Robert Towne** must have heaved a big sigh of relief when they were done filming said scene. Robert, who wrote several Oscar-nominated screenplays but is best known for "Chinatown"—considered by many to be the finest screenplay of the last 30 years and one of the most outstanding films of the 20th century—wrote and directed this romantic drama.

## Shark attack

Here, in Salma's own words, is how she did her first-ever full-frontal nudity in a film: "It was freezing. I was very nervous about this scene from the beginning. Robert can tell you how much I tortured him about it (laughter). I asked him, 'How are we going to do it? Am I really going to be naked?' Then we couldn't shoot it in the location they picked because a shark had just eaten a person right there. They had to go find another place, which was a big ordeal.

"Finally, they found another location. It was really cold so we were nervous about getting in the water. We had a doctor who was gave Colin and me something to drink that kept the body temperature high so we wouldn't get hypothermia. Then I was worried about being naked, doing the scene right and not dying (laughter). Earlier in my trailer, Robert and Colin came over to calm me down. No, I was not naked in my trailer. Finally everybody gave up on me and left.

"Then it was time to go and do it, which took longer because they had to prepare all the things. I went, 'Let's just get it out of the way.' Finally, I came out in a coat and out came Colin, running out naked, dancing like in a ballet! I laughed for the first time that day, which relaxed me. I have been a diver since I was 12. I grew up in Coastzacoalcos (Mexico) near the water. I feel most comfortable in the water. I think it really helped me once I got in.

> She says he never looked away from her eyes while they were shooting, whereas most men end up staring at her breasts

## Shocking cold

"At first I was shocked by the coldness of the water. Then I felt really at ease. Colin was very respectful. Sometimes I have conversations with people and I'm dressed and they never look at my eyes or they just look at my eyes for a second (laughter). They're looking a little lower (she looked at her chest to demonstrate how some folks' eyes eventually stray "down there"). I have to say Mr. Colin Farrell never looked away from my eyes while we were shooting, which was highly appreciated."

In her other new movie, "Bandidas," an action-comedy western, Salma and **Penelope Cruz** keep their clothes on (well, but they are dressed sexily). However, they have a scene with one lucky dude, Steve Zahn, where he is as naked as Colin is in "Ask the Dust."

In a separate interview, Steve talked about being nude (for three working days!) in front of the two loveliest, most alluring Latina actresses who play bank robbers. The actor's credits include "Chicken Little," "Sahara" and a little indie comedy gem, "Happy, Texas," where he is a hoot as an escaped convict posing as a beauty pageant expert to avoid being caught. He said, "I had to shoot three days naked. I play a detective out to capture them

SALMA/ A2-4

New Mariwasa Tiles with Microban Antibacterial Protection. Matinding depensa laban sa mga mapanganib na germs tulad ng E. Coli, Staphylococcus at Salmonella.
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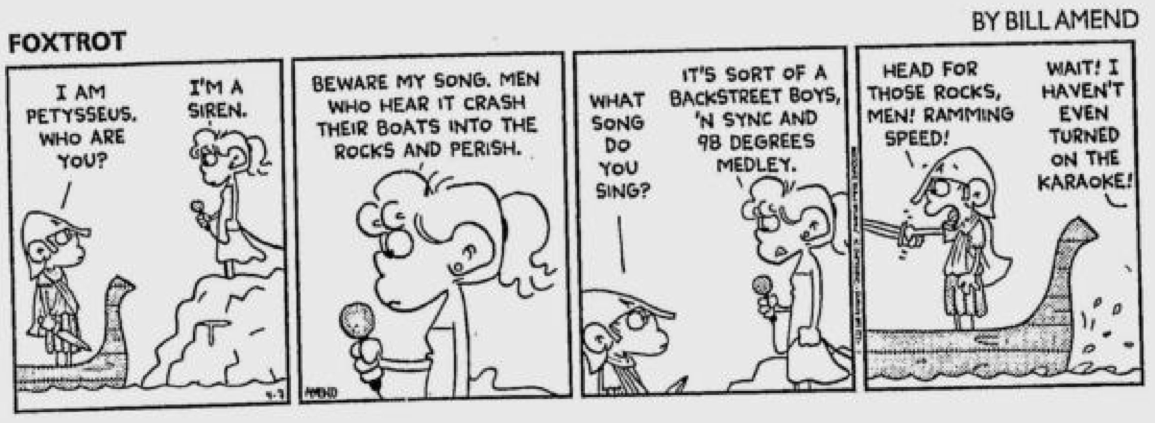
MARIWASA
with Microban

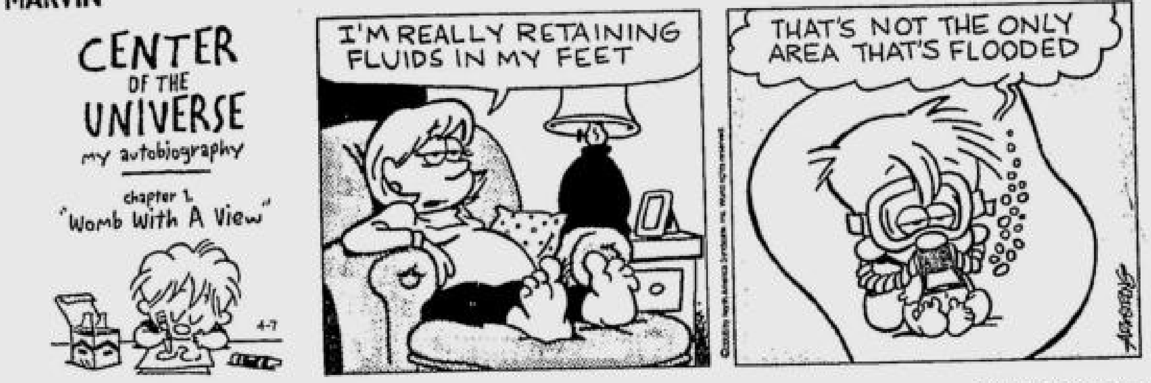
**FOXTROT**

BY BILL AMEND


I AM PETYSSEUS. WHO ARE YOU?
I'M A SIREN.
BEWARE MY SONG. MEN WHO HEAR IT CRASH THEIR BOATS INTO THE ROCKS AND PERISH.
WHAT SONG DO YOU SING?
IT'S SORT OF A BACKSTREET BOYS, 'N SYNC AND 98 DEGREES MEDLEY.
HEAD FOR THOSE ROCKS, MEN! RAMMING SPEED!
WAIT! I HAVEN'T EVEN TURNED ON THE KARAOKE!

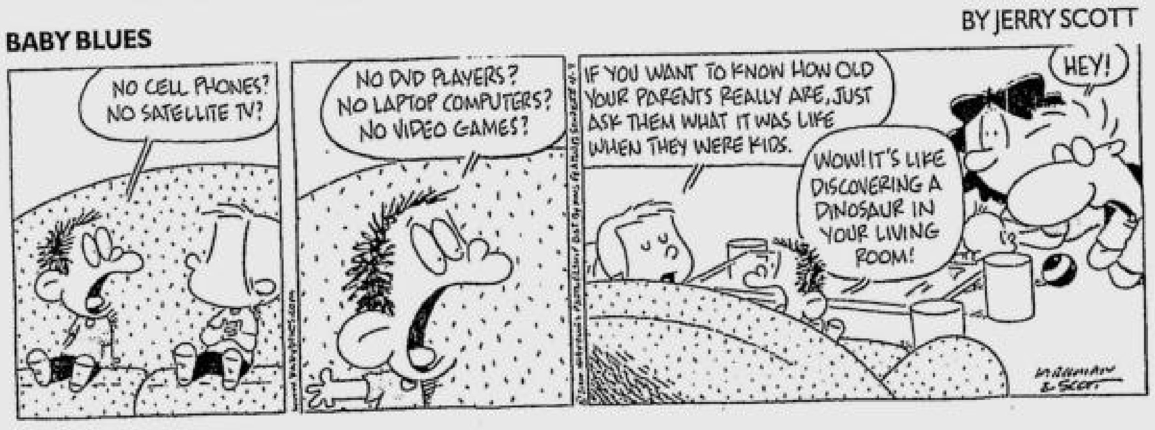
**MARVIN**

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE
my autobiography
chapter 1
"Womb With A View"
I'M REALLY RETAINING FLUIDS IN MY FEET
THAT'S NOT THE ONLY AREA THAT'S FLOODED

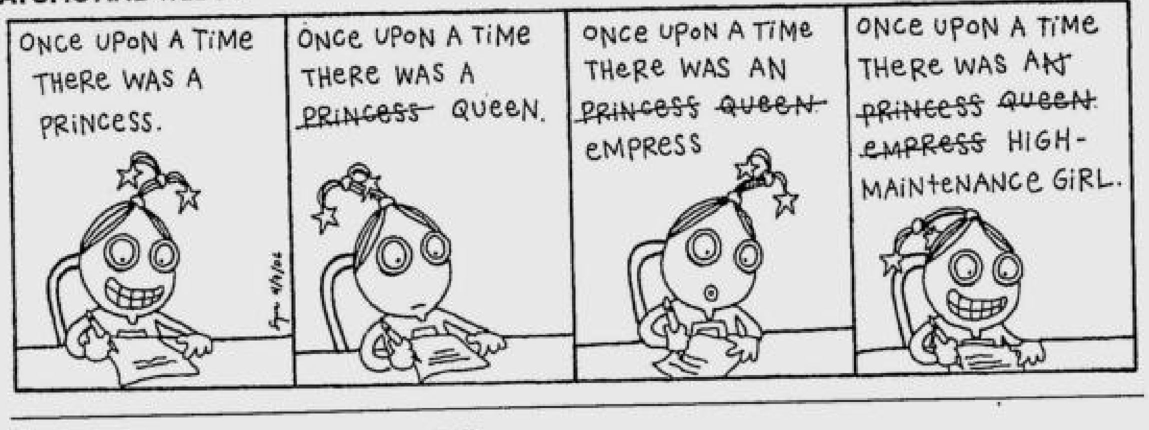
**BABY BLUES**

BY JERRY SCOTT


NO CELL PHONES? NO SATELLITE TV?
NO DVD PLAYERS? NO LAPTOP COMPUTERS? NO VIDEO GAMES?
IF YOU WANT TO KNOW HOW OLD YOUR PARENTS REALLY ARE, JUST ASK THEM WHAT IT WAS LIFE WHEN THEY WERE KIDS.
WOW! IT'S LIKE DISCOVERING A DINOSAUR IN YOUR LIVING ROOM!
HEY!
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

**ATOMO AND WEBOY**

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


ONCE UPON A TIME THERE WAS A PRINCESS.
ONCE UPON A TIME THERE WAS A ~~PRINCESS~~ QUEEN.
ONCE UPON A TIME THERE WAS AN ~~PRINCESS~~ ~~QUEEN~~ EMPRESS
ONCE UPON A TIME THERE WAS A~~N~~ ~~PRINCESS~~ ~~QUEEN~~ ~~EMPRESS~~ HIGH-MAINTENANCE GIRL.

# HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

**YOU BORN TODAY:** Because you're dynamic and energetic, you approach life with much physicality. You're enthusiastic about whatever you like. Your success is due to your belief in yourself. People often come to depend on you. (You don't mind this.) Privately, you're quite spiritual. The year ahead is full of exciting, fresh, new beginnings. Open any door!

**Birthdate of:** Russell Crowe, actor; Billie Holiday, singer; Jackie Chan, actor.

**ARIES (March 21 to April 19):** This is a romantic, flirtatious day. Catch a movie, see some sports and play in any way that you can. Enjoy playful activities with children as well.

**TAURUS (April 20 to May 20):** You have an opportunity to see just how strongly your habits from the past control your present life. This is something we all need to learn more about. Today is your chance.

**GEMINI (May 21 to June 20):** Trust your "gut" level of communication today. You have a chance to learn something about yourself right now, because memories of the past come to mind.

**CANCER (June 21 to July 22):** You will feel best if familiar objects surround you today. You want to enjoy your own possessions. You seem to identify with what you own right now.

**LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22):** The Moon is in your sign today. This can make you emotionally giving to others; but it makes you emotionally demanding as well. (It's OK to be concerned about yourself.)

**VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22):** You might prefer to be alone today. Time spent by yourself will give you an opportunity to both think and rest your mind. (Sounds contradictory, but it's true.)

**LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22):** Examine your overall goals in life today. Are you happy with the direction you're headed? What can you do to make things different?

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21):** This is a good day for any kind of PR work or making sales presentations to the public. You're not afraid to be in the public eye. (Plus, VIPs are impressed.)

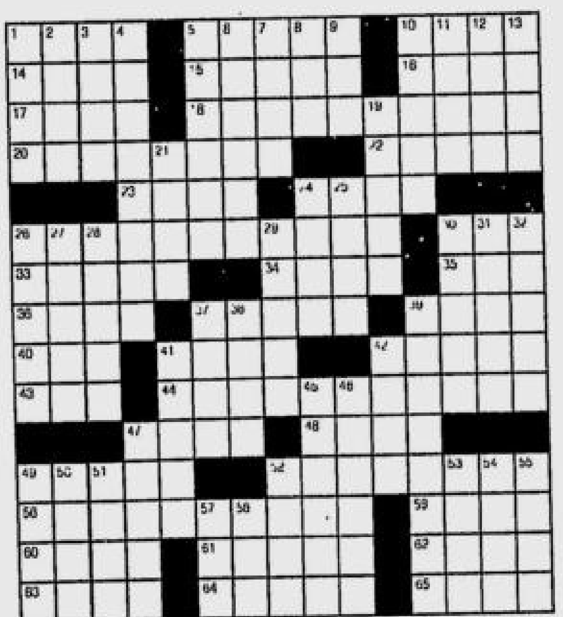
**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21):** This is a good day to get in touch with ideas, philosophies and concepts that are new to you. You might meet new friends from other cultures who can teach you something.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19):** Whatever happens today, you will probably feel it more emotionally or more intensely. This could make you rather possessive about what you own or your close friends.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18):** Close friends and partners are more important to you today. In fact, you might feel rather protective about someone. Be patient, because conflicts with others could be emotional.

**PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20):** You find it easy to put your own interests second today. You want to please someone. In fact, you feel joy doing a job correctly, whether you get credit for it or not.

# DAILY CROSSWORD



By Alison Donald
Hartsdale, NY

4/7/06

**ACROSS**
1 Related
5 Formal response to "Who's there?"
10 Rowers
14 Shoe string
15 Same here
16 Tons
17 Ret. honorary title
18 Mardi Gras
20 Water transportation option
22 Sawyer or Lane
23 Cordon __ (master chef)
24 Superman's girl
26 Theatrical makeup
30 Warner Bros. rival
33 Actress Berry
34 Mothers of Miles.
35 Exist
36 Track shape
37 Little swabs
39 Pitcher Hershiser
40 Harden
41 Club fees
42 Dieter's target
43 Half a fly?
44 Cause of long lines at the pumps
47 Nod off
48 Norwegian saint
49 Poultry entree
52 Not just ajar
56 Restaurant table item
59 Medical shot?
60 Coup d'__
61 Lake formed by Akosombo Dam
62 Auction ends?
63 Flushed
64 Speaks biblically
65 "Auld Lang __"

**DOWN**
1 Actor Guinness
2 "__ Sutra"
3 Bakery worker
4 Soft toy
5 Song by The Who
6 Rip to pieces
7 __-bitty
8 Drunkard
9 Debtor's letters
10 Desert refuge
11 Alan of "M*A*S*H"
12 Colorful mount
13 Eye problem
19 Revises a text
21 If all __ fails...
24 Droopy
25 Singles
26 Wraith
27 Great reviews
28 Overjoy
29 Off the mark
30 One of The Donald's exes
31 Shorthand system
32 Brawl
37 Quick test
38 Port beginning?
39 Gets the better of
41 Blackmore heroine
42 Scottish hillside
45 Uses a crane
46 So last year
47 Bonkers
49 Good buddy?
50 Prefix for biography
51 School orgs.
52 Like a coyote
53 Hunted animal
54 Deserve
55 Wall St. initials
57 Letters for motor homes
58 Letters from the morgue

**Thursday's Puzzle Solved**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| P | E | T | R | I | ■ | A | S | P | S | ■ | S | W | I | M |
| A | C | R | I | D | ■ | S | U | L | U | ■ | T | A | C | O |
| T | H | E | D | I | C | T | I | O | N | A | R | Y | I | S |
| H | O | S | E | ■ | A | R | T | Y | ■ | P | O | N | E | S |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | S | A | L | A | ■ | ■ | B | A | K | E | R | Y |
| T | H | E | O | N | L | Y | P | L | A | C | E | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| R | E | R | U | N | ■ | ■ | E | I | R | E | ■ | E | L | O |
| E | A | S | T | ■ | T | E | R | N | S | ■ | E | L | A | N |
| E | R | E | ■ | S | E | A | S | ■ | ■ | A | S | I | D | E |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | W | H | E | R | E | S | U | C | C | E | S | S |
| F | U | S | I | O | N | ■ | ■ | E | S | T | H | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| A | B | O | D | E | ■ | B | A | N | E | ■ | E | W | E | S |
| C | O | M | E | S | B | E | F | O | R | E | W | O | R | K |
| T | A | M | S | ■ | O | M | A | R | ■ | L | E | O | N | I |
| S | T | E | T | ■ | G | A | R | S | ■ | I | D | L | E | D |

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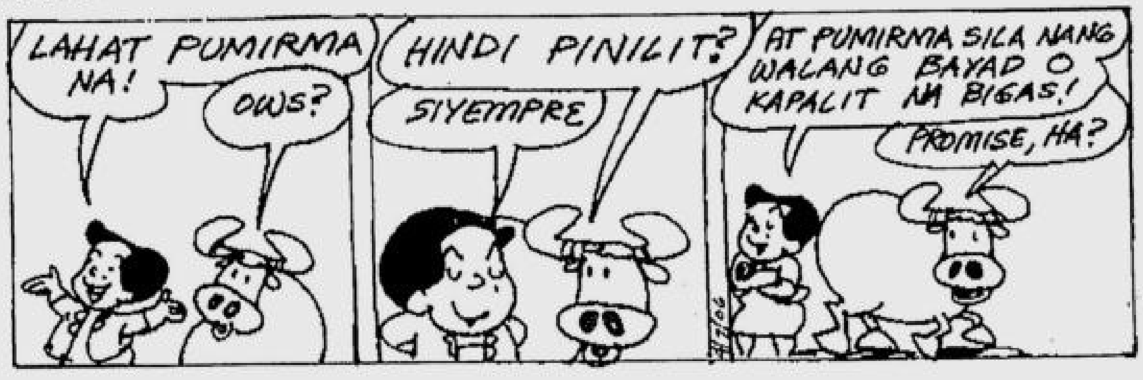
4/7/06

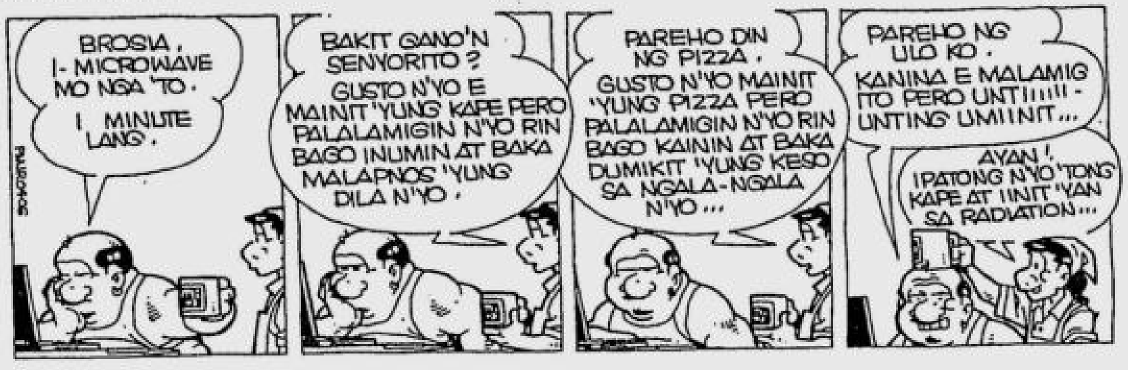
**A. LIPIN**

BY JESS ABRERA


LAHAT PUMIRMA NA!
OWS?
HINDI PINILIT?
SIYEMPRE
AT PUMIRMA SILA NANG WALANG BAYAD O KAPALIT NA BIGAS!
PROMISE, HA?

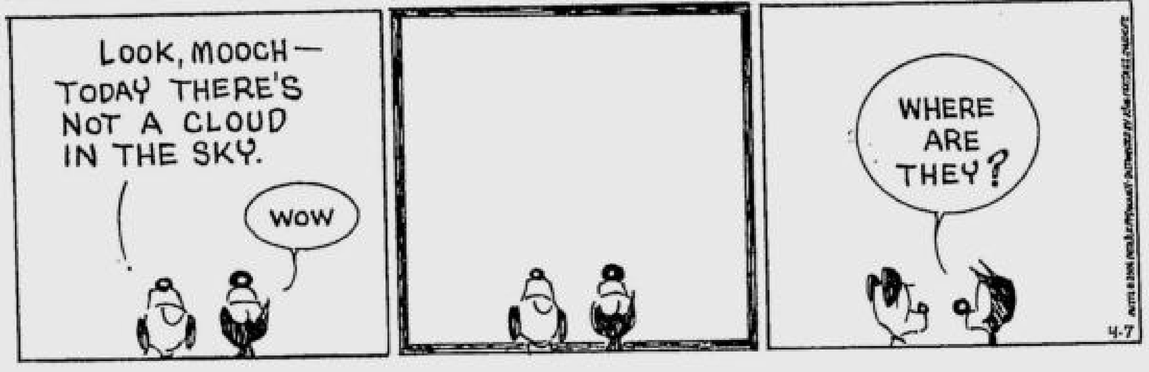
**PUGAD BABOY**

BY P.M. JUNIOR


BROSIA, I-MICROWAVE MO NGA 'TO. 1 MINUTE LANG.
BAKIT GANO'N SENYORITO? GUSTO N'YO E MAINIT 'YUNG KAPE PERO PALALAMIGIN N'YO RIN BAGO INUMIN AT BAKA MALAPNOS 'YUNG DILA N'YO.
PAREHO DIN NG PIZZA. GUSTO N'YO MAINIT 'YUNG PIZZA PERO PALALAMIGIN N'YO RIN BAGO KAININ AT BAKA DUMIKIT 'YUNG KESO SA NGALA-NGALA N'YO...
PAREHO NG ULO KO. KANINA E MALAMIG ITO PERO UNTI!!!!!-UNTING UMIINIT...
AYAN! IPATONG N'YO 'TONG KAPE AT IINIT 'YAN SA RADIATION...

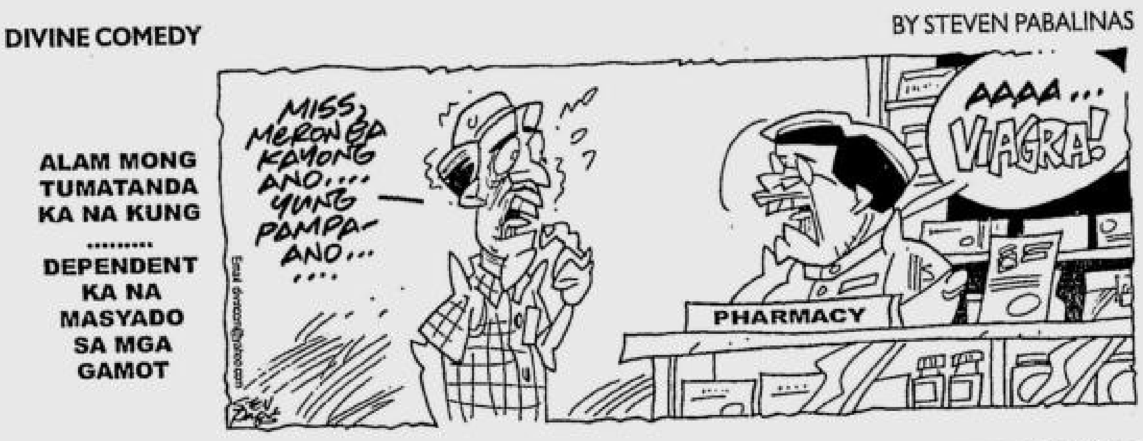
**MUTTS**

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


LOOK, MOOCH — TODAY THERE'S NOT A CLOUD IN THE SKY.
WOW
WHERE ARE THEY?
4-7

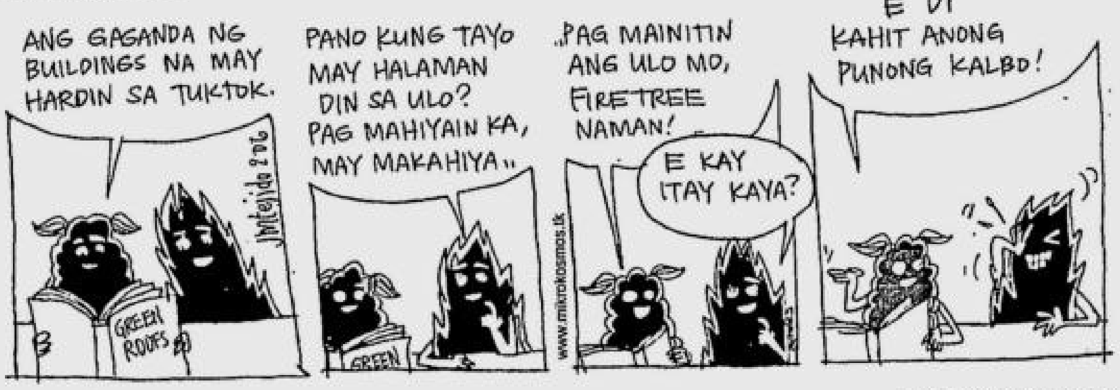
**DIVINE COMEDY**

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


ALAM MONG TUMATANDA KA NA KUNG
..........
DEPENDENT KA NA MASYADO SA MGA GAMOT
MISS, MERON BA KAYONG ANO.... YUNG PAMPA-ANO... ....
AAAA... VIAGRA!
PHARMACY

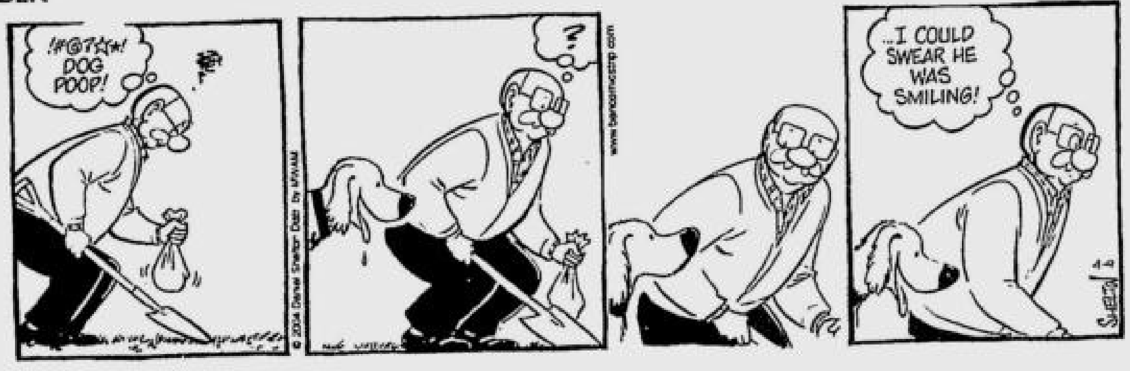
**MIKROKOSMOS**

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


ANG GAGANDA NG BUILDINGS NA MAY HARDIN SA TUKTOK.
GREEN ROOFS
PANO KUNG TAYO MAY HALAMAN DIN SA ULO? PAG MAHIYAIN KA, MAY MAKAHIYA..
..PAG MAINITIN ANG ULO MO, FIRETREE NAMAN!
E KAY ITAY KAYA?
E DI KAHIT ANONG PUNONG KALBO!
www.mikrokosmos.tk

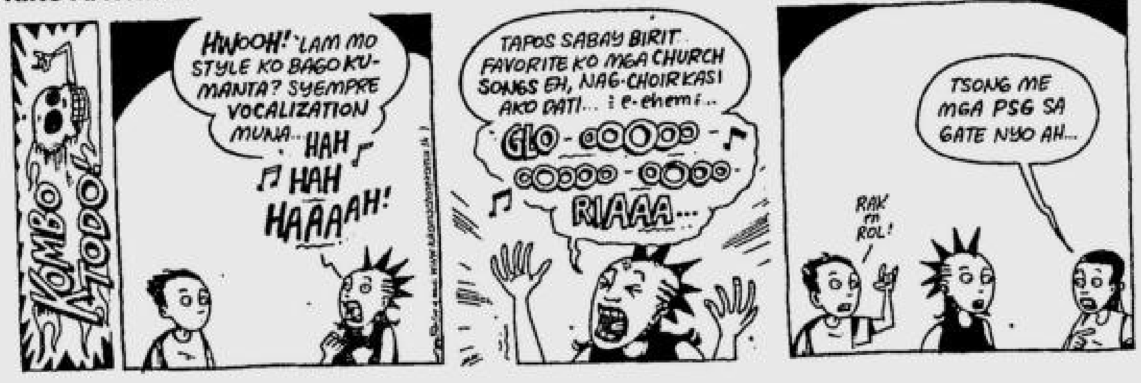
**BEN**

BY DANIEL SHELTON


!#@?*%! DOG POOP!
?
...I COULD SWEAR HE WAS SMILING!
www.bencomicstrip.com

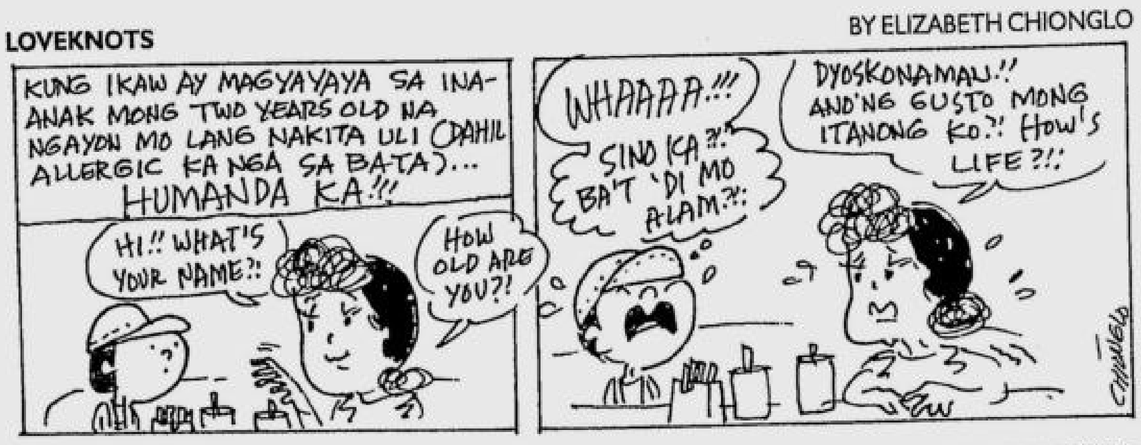
**KIKO MACHINE**

BY MANIX ABRERA


KOMBO TODO!
HWOOH! 'LAM MO STYLE KO BAGO KUMANTA? SYEMPRE VOCALIZATION MUNA.. HAH HAH HAAAAH!
TAPOS SABAY BIRIT. FAVORITE KO MGA CHURCH SONGS EH, NAG-CHOIR KASI AKO DATI... e-ehem!..
GLO-OOOOO-OOOOO-OOOO-RIAAA...
RAK 'N ROL!
TSONG ME MGA PSG SA GATE NYO AH...

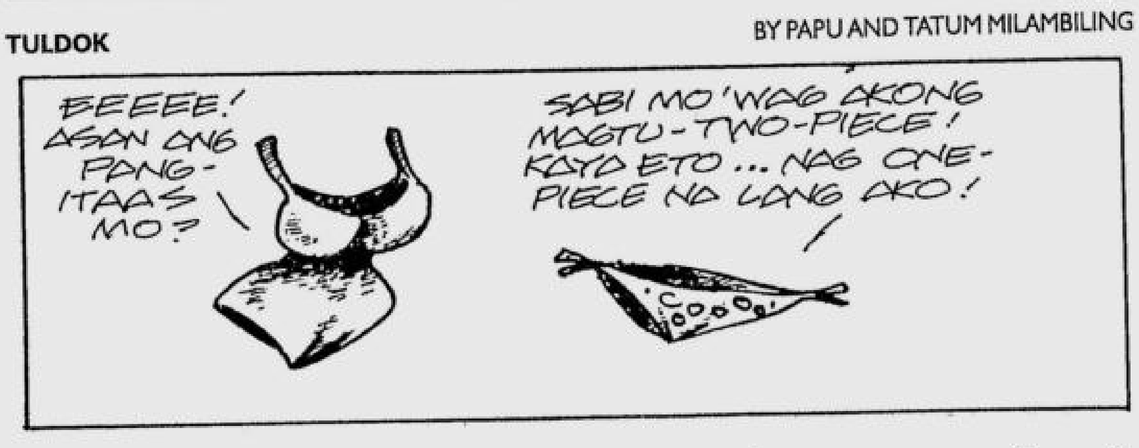
**LOVEKNOTS**

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


KUNG IKAW AY MAGYAYAYA SA INAANAK MONG TWO YEARS OLD NA NGAYON MO LANG NAKITA ULI (DAHIL ALLERGIC KA NGA SA BATA)... HUMANDA KA!!!
HI!! WHAT'S YOUR NAME?!
HOW OLD ARE YOU?!
WHAAAA!!!
SINO KA?! BA'T 'DI MO ALAM?!
DYOSKONAMAN!! ANO'NG GUSTO MONG ITANONG KO?! HOW'S LIFE?!
CHIONGLO

**TULDOK**

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


EEEEE! ASAN ANG PANG-ITAAS MO?
SABI MO 'WAG AKONG MAGTU-TWO-PIECE! KAYA ETO... NAG ONE-PIECE NA LANG AKO!

# Of 'Idol' relatives and cheer leaders

**CHEER FACTOR**

LOS ANGELES—A SEAT IN THE studio audience for "American Idol" is free, but contestants' family members and friends are paying a price to lend moral support to their favorite singers.

Millie Hundley is shelling out for airline and hotel costs. Clyde Pickler Sr. is getting by with a little help from friends, and Kenneth Daughtry's boss gave him time off and paid his way from Virginia.

Hundley said it is worth the weekly trips from Atlanta to the soundstage at CBS Television City in Los Angeles to see her stepdaughter, Mandisa, perform each Tuesday on Fox's hit series and to be on hand Wednesdays when a contestant is voted off.

"I get to watch my daughter live my dreams," said Hundley, a church choir soloist.

"Hey, you want to sponsor me?" she joked, after hearing that Daughtry, brother of contestant Chris Daughtry, had received financial help from his employer and co-workers at a sawmill in Blackstone, Virginia.

BUCKY'S wife, left, and Mandisa's stepmom. AP

Kenneth said his brother's wife, Deanna, who's caring for two children and recuperating from surgery, could not make the trip from McLeansville, North Carolina.

Pickler, grandfather of finalist Kellie Pickler of Albemarle, North Carolina, is a semiretired electrician and only had to worry about Kellie's dog back home. (The pooch is being tended by his girlfriend, Clyde Pickler said.)

He is staying at a Howard Johnson hotel near the airport and friends have helped out with the cost, he said. But he has been using taxis to ferry him the long distances around the city "and that gets kind of expensive," he said.

Neither Daughtry nor Pickler is in pricey digs: a room at Howard Johnson goes for about $90, while Daughtry's hotel, the Tradewinds, lists rates from $39.99 to $79.

## Like a dream

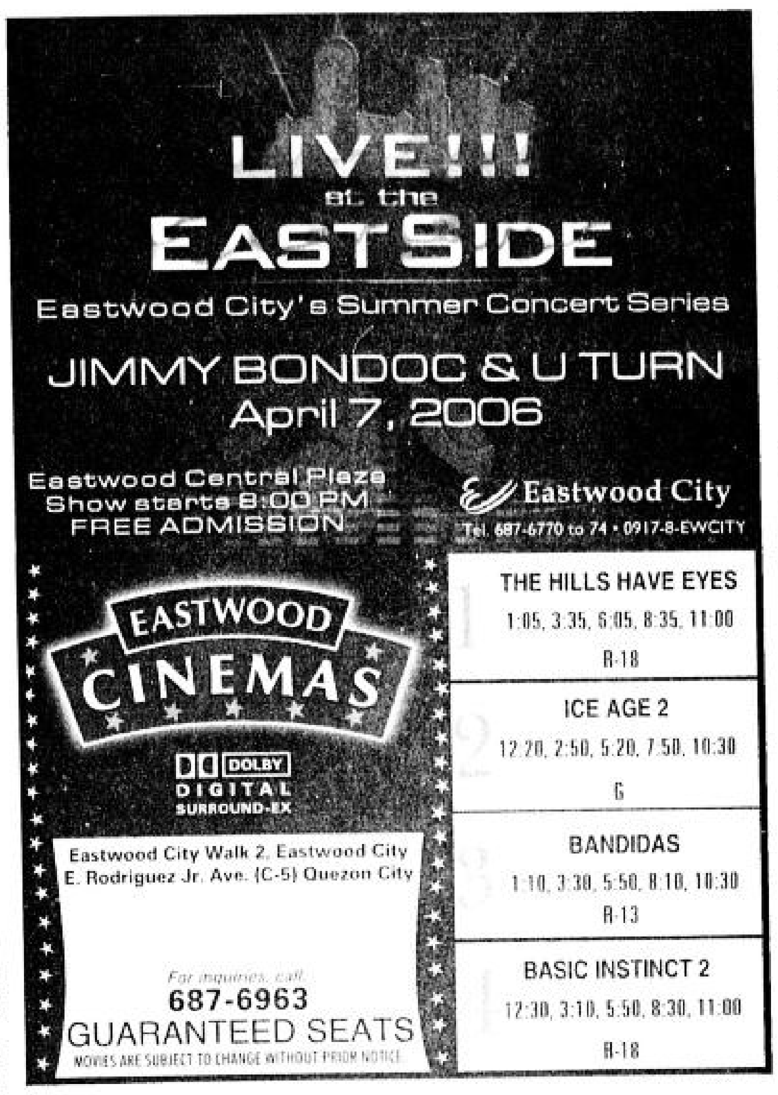
Elliott Yamin's mother, Claudette, who said she left behind "my volunteer work and maybe a dead battery in my car" in Richmond, Virginia, has been crashing with various friends in the Los Angeles area.

"Someone asked me have I pinched myself yet," said Claudette. "I said, no, I'm afraid to. It's like a dream. I'm very proud of my son."

Bucky Covington's wife, Crystal, had come out from Rockingham, North Carolina, for a two-week stay earlier in the contest but now wants to stick it out. The emergency-department nurse said understanding employers gave her the OK.

"I'd just taken a week to come back out for the show and they said, 'No, this is a once-in-a-lifetime thing. Just take a leave of absence and come back when you're ready,'" Covington said. "I'll go home, I guess, when I run out of money."

*Lynn Elber, AP*



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1:05, 3:35, 6:05, 8:35, 11:00
R-18

ICE AGE 2
12:20, 2:50, 5:20, 7:50, 10:30
G

BANDIDAS
1:10, 3:30, 5:50, 8:10, 10:30
R-13

BASIC INSTINCT 2
12:30, 3:10, 5:50, 8:30, 11:00
R-18

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"The cinematography, the set design, even the mood of the film contributed heavily sa taas ng production value." - Dinno Erece (Tumbok)
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PREMIERE
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7 GOLD (DOLBY) GRAND MA'S BOY
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4 (DOLBY) RESERVED

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# Winning streak

ANGEL Locsin

CALL IT SUPERSTITION. The box office success of "Let the Love Begin" last year and, currently, "Moments of Love," got GMA Network Films executives thinking: Did these two movie have a common lucky charm?

How about this, according to one exec: "In the posters of both movies, the lead actresses' (Angel Locsin and Iza Calzado) eyes are closed. *Baka 'yun!*"

## RUSHES

### Busy babe

More on Angel-Iza: Angel's up to her neck in work, so Iza is taking her place as Robin Padilla's leading lady in Unitel Pictures' "Blackout."

CRISTINE Reyes

PHOTOS OF ANGEL AND CRISTINE COURTESY OF GMA NETWORK

### Rustom's choice

Rustom Padilla was offered the gay role in the film adaptation of Carlo Verga's comic book, "Zsa Zsa Zaturnnah." He said he'd rather direct the movie than star in it.

Wow, *taray*!

### Which Dawn?

Fans of Dawn Zulueta, brace yourself for her next TV role: She plays the housemaid Amy—in grubby getup, naturally—in the fifth season of "Love to Love," on GMA 7.

### Cristine Reyes

Ara Mina's feisty little sister Cristine Reyes, who turned 18 in February, transforms into sexy actress in "Apoy sa Dibdib ng Samar." Her leading man is Pampanga Governor Mark Lapid.

### Awkward silence

Silence was tightlipped Jennifer Aniston's response on Tuesday's "Today" show when asked about the latest rumor that Oprah Winfrey is planning to host an $8 million wedding for her and beau Vince Vaughn.

DAWN Zulueta

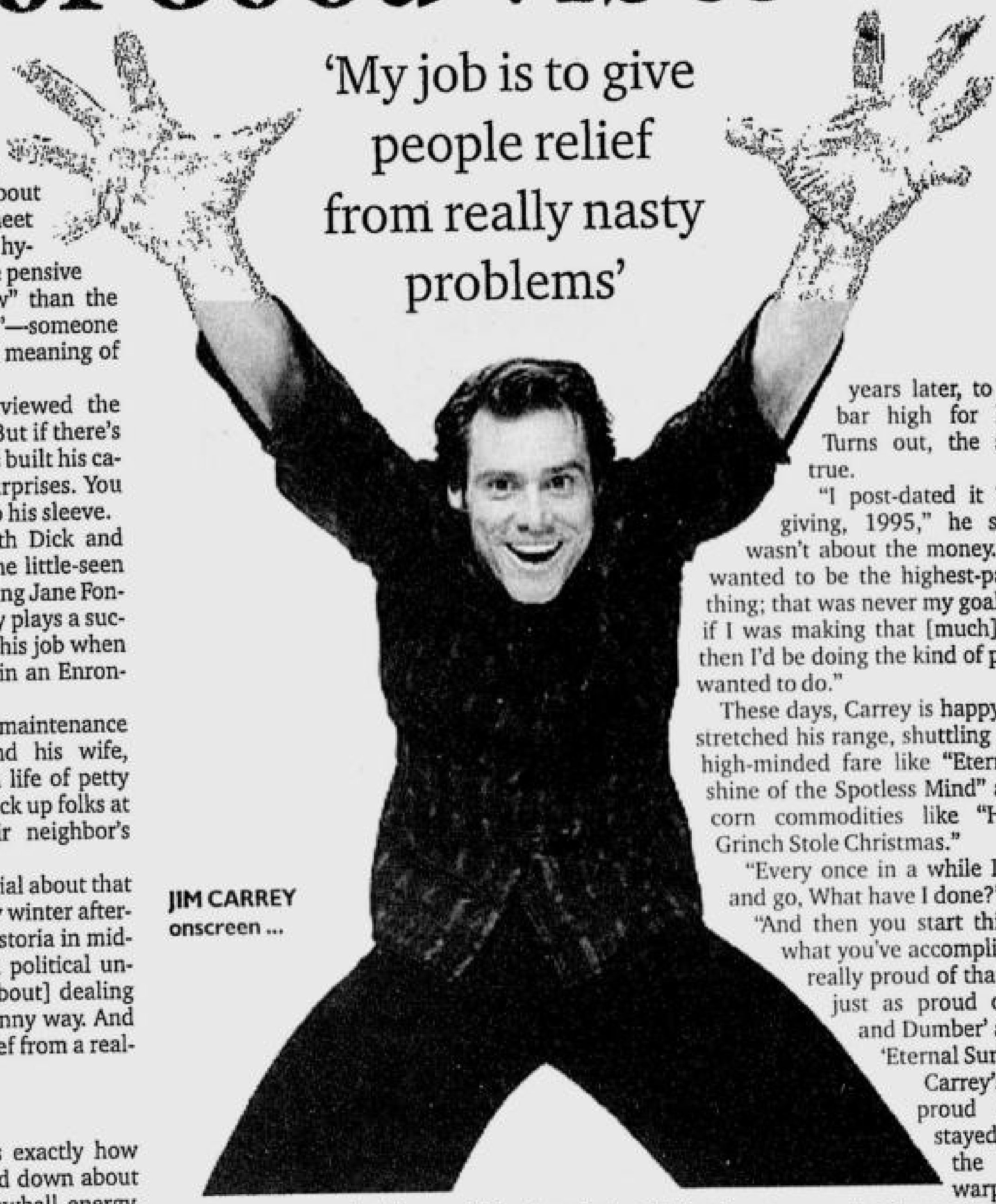
### Cameron wins

A judge has awarded Cameron Diaz $650,000 in damages in a civil lawsuit filed against a photographer who took topless photos of the actress when she was 19 and later tried to sell them back to her for $3.5 million. *AP*

JENNIFER Aniston (left) and Cameron Diaz

# Sultan of Slapstick, Guru of Good Vibes

By Alexis L. Loinaz
*Contributor*



'My job is to give people relief from really nasty problems'

JIM CARREY onscreen ...

FOR ALL HIS FAMOUS SLAPstick, the funniest thing about Jim Carrey is, when you meet him in person, he's anything but hyper. He comes across more like the pensive Everyman in "The Truman Show" than the cartoonish wacko in "The Mask"—someone more prone to contemplating the meaning of life than making funny faces.

INQUIRER Entertainment interviewed the actor recently in New York City. But if there's a single thing that Jim Carrey has built his career on, it's the ability to pull surprises. You can bet he still has a few tricks up his sleeve.

His latest trick was "Fun With Dick and Jane," a social satire based on the little-seen 1977 film of the same name starring Jane Fonda and George Segal. In it, Carrey plays a successful corporate type who loses his job when his company crashes and burns in an Enron-like embezzlement scandal.

To keep up their high-maintenance lifestyle, Carrey's character and his wife, played by Tea Leoni, resort to a life of petty crime. They rob coffeehouses, stick up folks at ATM machines and steal their neighbor's plants (go figure).

"There was a lot that was special about that role," Carrey says on this gloomy winter afternoon in a suite at the Waldorf-Astoria in midtown Manhattan. "There was a political undertone, social satire. It [was about] dealing with a very serious issue in a funny way. And that's my job: to give people relief from a really nasty problem."

## Soft-spoken

In person, Jim Carrey looks exactly how you'd expect him to look, scaled down about 10 notches. Unseen is the screwball energy, the hyperkinetic persona. Instead, you get a disarmingly muted and soft-spoken guy.

The 44-year-old actor looks somewhat tired. However, this doesn't prevent him from being polite and sincere, the antithesis of his zany characters. Then again, you realize that the only character he's really playing right now is, well, Jim Carrey.

"There's a lot of good ideas out there [that] I've never done before," he notes. "In ("Dick and Jane"), it was the idea of being with a woman and having a buddy thing going on that was attractive thing to me—somebody who would stand toe to toe with me and have a cool, ridiculous domestic thing going on."

His co-star Leoni has said, "I think he's the Jerry Lewis of our generation. You should see what he can do with his body."

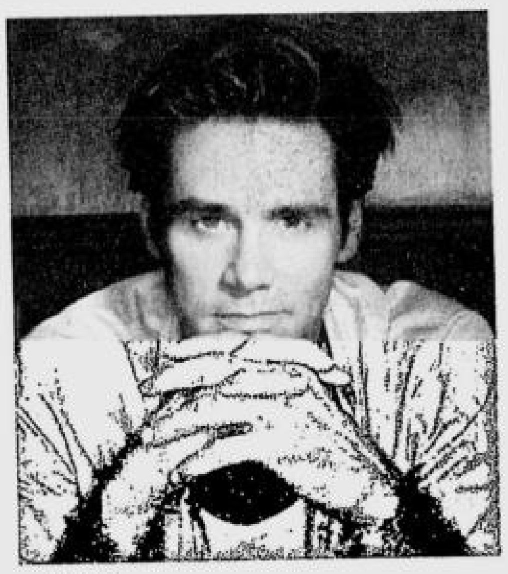
Heaps of praise are nothing new to Carrey, but he's still happy to get them. Still, for a man who blew open superstar salaries with his jaw-dropping $20 million paycheck for 1996's "The Cable Guy," Carrey appears to have a refreshingly humble, level-headed perspective on fame and fortune. Since he broke into the mainstream with "Ace Ventura: Pet Detective" in 1995, his films have made—are you sitting down, reader?—over $3.2 billion worldwide.

Ask about his success, though, and Carrey starts to sounds less like the Sultan of Slapstick than the Guru of Good Vibes.

"Money's nice to have," he says. "But ... it comes because you have a certain belief system, because you feel the world is abundant and you start working toward getting good at things."

It's been a long way for the Canadian-born comedian, who says he once worked as janitor at a truck-rim-making factory at 16 because his father was out of a job. At the time, he went to school during the day and worked nights mopping floors and cleaning sinks.

There's an oft-told story that, right before he hit the big time, Carrey wrote himself a check for $10 million and post-dated it four years later, to set the bar high for himself. Turns out, the story is true.



... and off.

"I post-dated it Thanksgiving, 1995," he says. "It wasn't about the money. I never wanted to be the highest-paid anything; that was never my goal. I knew if I was making that [much] money, then I'd be doing the kind of projects I wanted to do."

These days, Carrey is happy to have stretched his range, shuttling between high-minded fare like "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind" and popcorn commodities like "How the Grinch Stole Christmas."

"Every once in a while I sit back and go, What have I done?" he says. "And then you start thinking of what you've accomplished. I'm really proud of that. But I'm just as proud of 'Dumb and Dumber' as I am of 'Eternal Sunshine.'"

Carrey's also proud to have stayed out of the tabloids' warpath. While the actor was briefly media fodder for his high-profile dalliances with Renee Zellweger and Lauren Holly, he has—surprisingly, for the most part—steered clear of tabloid infamy, which is a minor miracle in Hollywood.

"My love live will never be for sale," he insists. "People can speculate all they want, but it will never the thing I use to promote myself."

## Dead serious

For Carrey, what's important is to explore a more a substantial life without falling into the trivial trappings of celebrity. It may make him sound like a New Age sage, but he's dead serious when he says this.

"My life is like an experiment," he says, and starts to laugh. "I've read about different spiritual philosophies, I've been stoned; I've been all those things. I'm like, Let's sit and try to expand our consciousness and see if I can feel that the tree is really my foot! I really love that kind of stuff. It sounds psychotic."

Carrey suddenly becomes strangely still. "People go, Aren't you afraid of losing things and what you've got? When I'm in the right mind, I go, I can't lose anything. Because even if you take it away from me, I still have it. The money's always been a symptom of trying really hard to do the best work I can."

*(E-mail: alexisloinaz@gmail.com)*

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# Salma: Colin 'respectful' in our nude scene

From page A3-1

but they capture me instead. They are dressed like hookers. When they get me, I'm butt naked. They tie me onto a bed and blackmail me. I find out that they're kind of Robin Hoods. I join ranks with them and we rob banks together."

## Very funny

Steve, who can't ever be mistaken for Colin, deadpanned, "They have a crush on my character and I pay no attention to them because I have a fiancée back in New York." When laughter broke, Steve quipped, "Yes, that's very funny."

Added the actor, who must have considered his paycheck for "Bandidas" simply a bonus, an afterthought: "Throughout the movie Salma and Penelope have this competition—it's not as much about me as about them doing the better kiss, and I just happen to be the recipient."

When asked if he was a reluctant participant in all that, Steve replied with a sheepish smile, "Yes." We'll repeat it: Steve Zahn is a lucky chap. He's grateful to writers Luc Besson (the noted French director is also the producer) and Robert Mark Kamen for writing those scenes and to the movie's two (yes, two) Norwegian directors, **Joachim Roenning** and **Espen Sandberg** for casting him.

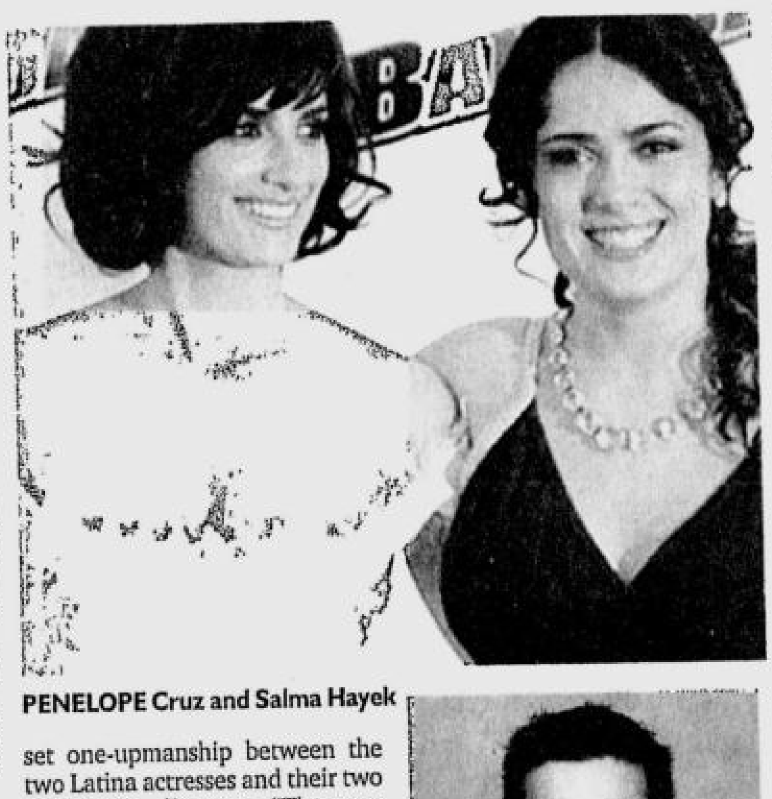
Back to Salma—she rhapsodized over her friendship with the gorgeous ex of **Tom Cruise**. "Penelope and I have been very good friends for eight years now," said the Oscar Best Actress nominee for her portrayal of artist **Frida Kahlo** in "Frida." "We wanted to do something together. We did this movie and our relationship, which has been great, got even better through the filming. We have a lot of things in common and yet we are very different in many ways. It was an unforgettable experience. We have great chemistry."

Steve may disagree but to Salma, this is the great thing about "Bandidas": "I think the best thing in the movie is the interaction between the Penelope and me. I play a very rich girl. She plays a very poor girl. We get together for a cause. Our characters initially don't like each other—they're completely different but they become partners for a cause.

## Sour humor

In an earlier interview, Penelope also harped on her friendship with Salma. The Spanish actress gushed, "Just to see each other dressed like that, with the guns, doing all the action together, and going through a lot of training was a great experience. We were together the whole time, supporting each other. We spent four months together in Mexico. I think the movie is going to be very funny."

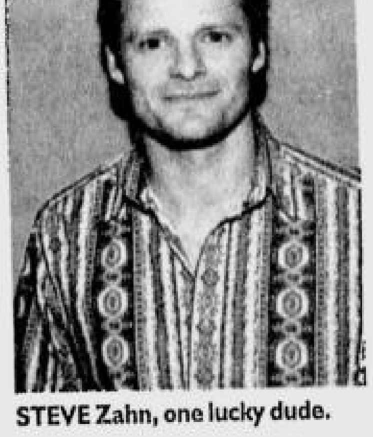
Penelope let slip the playful onset one-upmanship between the two Latina actresses and their two Norwegian directors. "They are very talented, smart and funny—kind of a very sour humor," she says of Joaquim and Espen. "We got along very well with them. They would speak Norwegian to decide what notes they were going to give us for the next day. So Salma and I would do the same thing in Spanish. And it was so much the opposite of what they wanted to achieve that they were annoyed by that sometimes. Because she and I were always a team. We always know what the other one is thinking. But I'm sure that they prefer that than the other way. They were great to work with. They didn't like us speaking Spanish in a corner and planning stupid things for the next day (laughter)."



PENELOPE Cruz and Salma Hayek

Steve was more succinct on his experience with a truly international cast and crew. "It was crazy," he declared. "French **Luc Besson** was the producer, with Norwegian directors and a French and Mexican crew. It was great, but there was a little language barrier. I'm usually very talkative on the set, but I was pretty quiet on this one."

Well, did he learn Spanish from Salma and Penelope? "Pequeño," he stated with a smile. Why? "You know what, I feel so bad. In high school, you got the choice: you can either learn a language like Spanish, which might be a good thing to learn; do homework; or you could go to wood shop class. I chose to go to wood shop with my buddies and have no homework. At the time, I thought that was a little better. Now I regret it, but I still make a good bookcase!"



STEVE Zahn, one lucky dude.

## From our e-mail box

ALICE Cayetano McHugh, reacting to our column on "Cavite" filmmakers winning the IFC/Someone To Watch Award at the Indie Spirit Awards: "I thought it may be interesting to note that both filmmakers **Ian Gamazon** and **Neill Dela Llana** are being represented by another Filipino-American, **Peter McHugh** of The Gotham Group in LA. Peter currently manages them both. He was born here in the US to a Filipino mother [Alice] and an Irish-American father. Peter is the nephew of the late Senator **Rene Cayetano** (my brother) and hence the first cousin of TV director **Lino Cayetano**."

## Bessie reports

FROM **Bessie Badilla**, our new cyberspace friend: "I watched 'Ang Pagdadalaga ni (The Blossoming of) Maximo Oliveros' at the MoMa (The Museum of Modern Art in New York) Theater last night. *Ganda!* It was sold out and I was surprised to see a lot of foreigners in the audience. I expected an all-Pinoy-gay crowd. Before the movie started, a MoMa committee member spoke about how six of them saw and enjoyed the movie during separate occasions; then unanimously voted for the film to be presented at the prestigious New Directors/New Films Festival in New York. This piece of information said a lot about the film. I can't wait to see more of **Michiko Yamamoto**'s screenplays to be turned into films. I also enjoyed her 'Magnifico.' I could not hear most of Auraeus' speech before the movie except for the last line: 'We may be poor, but not in spirit.' Bravo!"

*(E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com.)*

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10 DAYS TO GO

Ang Ating Kontribusyon Sa Solusyon

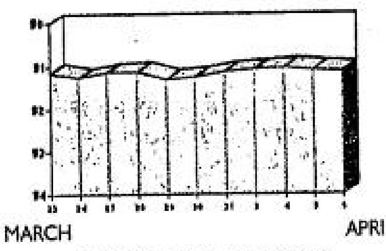
**WHAT'S INSIDE**

Equitable equivocation /B5

Chinese firm putting up $300-M glass plant in Subic /B4

## INDICATORS

### CURRENCIES



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As of 5 p.m., April 6, 2006

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### STOCK MARKET

**Shares close 1.02% higher**

SHARE PRICES YESTERDAY closed up 1.02 percent, hitting their highest levels in nearly seven years, led by market leader Philippine Long Distance Telephone (PLDT), dealers said.

They said gains in most regional markets

STOCKS/ B5

# Gov't urged to curb peso gains

## Experts warn people's purchasing power will be compromised

By Christine A. Gaylican

ECONOMISTS ARE URGING monetary authorities to keep a tight watch on the rapidly appreciating peso, warning that the unimpeded rise of the currency may cause extensive damage to domestic industries.

According to Dr. Felipe M. Medalla, University of the Philippines economics professor and former economic planning secretary, the government should keep the peso within the range of 51-53 to the US dollar if it hopes to keep the viability of the exports sector, particularly firms engaged in the manufacture of food, furniture and other durable goods.

There are over 4 million Filipinos currently employed in this sector alone.

"This is the downside the competitiveness of local exporting industries and call centers ... the purchasing power of overseas Filipino

GOV'T/ B2

Meeting
l 6, 2006

**BANKABLE SMILES**
The top guns of one of the country's biggest banks, (from left) Fernando Zobel de Ayala, Aurelio Montinola III and Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala, share a light moment during the annual stockholders' meeting of the Bank of Philippine Islands, held at the Hotel Intercontinental in Makati City. *(See story on Page B4.)* RUDY ESPERAS

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# Ecop bucks bill prohibiting subcontracting of jobs

**By Ronnel W. Domingo**

THE EMPLOYERS CONFEDERATION of the Philippines yesterday blasted a proposed law in Congress that requires a firm to maintain a workforce where four of five employees are regular in status.

Ecop president Rene Y. Soriano said House Bill No. 3338, which also prohibits the subcontracting of jobs, was "violative of the constitutional rights of employers."

"While it is true that security of tenure is a constitutionally guaranteed right of the employees, it does not mean perpetual employment for the employee," Soriano said.

He added that while the law also affords protection for the employee, it does not allow "oppression or destruction" of an employer.

Soriano also said that an owner of a business enterprise is given considerable leeway in managing his business because it is deemed important to society as a whole that he succeeds.

"Our law, therefore, recognizes certain rights as inherent in the management of business enterprises," he said.

As for the prohibition against subcontractors, Soriano said the bill would in effect outlaw all forms of contracting and outsourcing, a means which many companies use to attain cost efficiency.

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# Management in agriculture

**By Ernesto M. Ordonez**

**COMMENTARY**

EVERY TUESDAY at 7:30 a.m., about 20 chief executives would gather and discuss crucial agricultural issues of the day.

An expert on the topic to be discussed would usually join them in their discussions.

These men and women constitute the core group of the Management Association of the Philippines-Agribusiness and Countryside Development Foundation (MAP-ABCD).

Among those regularly attending the meetings are Ramon Ilusorio of Multinational Investment Bancorporation, Victorio Amante of GUADIX Land Corp., George Drysdale of Marsman-Drysdale Group, and former Science and Technology Secretary Ceferino Follosco.

## Crucial meeting

During their last meeting two days ago, the group met with leaders of the mother organization, the Management Association of the Philippines (MAP). MAP is composed exclusively of current and former chief executive officers of organizations from different economic sectors. Among those present were MAP president Evelyn Singson of e-Business Services, and Frank Eizmendi, former San Miguel Corp. president.

Because of the praiseworthy work of the MAP-ABCD under Ilusorio and Amante over the past year, a decision was made to firm up the relationship between MAP-ABCD and MAP in order to harness the management expertise resources of other MAP sectors and further strengthen the MAP-ABCD's thrust in countryside development.

During that meeting, several instances of good management insights from the MAP-ABCD were cited and communicated to the Department of Agriculture (DA). But these recommendations were unfortunately lost because of the DA's many priorities.

An Alyansa Agrikultura leader said that he and his group had the same experience.

## Engaging DA

Like MAP-ABCD, the Alyansa would forward their recommendations to the DA through position papers and sporadic meetings. Likewise, many of these recommendations would not be addressed appropriately.

Since the Alyansa, with its 39 federations and organizations, represents all the agricultural sectors, its leaders tried another approach. They volunteered to join each DA group that dealt with different sectors. In addition, they were able to include farmer leaders in the Philippine delegation to the World Trade Organization (WTO) ministerial meeting in Hong Kong last year.

The DA responded favorably to these initiatives.

Today, farmers get to air their concerns freely because there are Alyansa representatives working in each DA sectoral group. In addition, farmer leaders actively participate in an ongoing monitoring and management process that makes sure that the farmers' concerns are addressed and followed up.

For the DA to best serve the farmers' interests, two things need to be addressed. The first is that the DA provides the farmers with what they themselves say they need, and not what the DA sometimes unilaterally decides upon. This is addressed by the Alyansa representatives in each DA sectoral group.

## The importance of management

But if the delivery system for the proposals drawn up would be mismanaged, then the accurate identification of solutions becomes close to useless. This is where the management expertise of organizations like MAP-ABCD come in.

An example illustrates this point: From 1986 to 1999, the DA appropriately identified the use of certified seeds as an important solution to the rice shortage problem.

However, because of management's shortcomings, certified seed usage stagnated for 13 years—grains were harvested in only 300,000 of the allotted 4.2 million hectares.

In 2000, then DA Secretary Edgardo Angara infused P600 million to support this program.

The result was a doubling of seed usage to 700,000 hectares. Unfortunately, the next year, P150 million was cut from the budget. Several DA officials predicted a corresponding decrease in certified seed usage.

They were wrong.

With a new management procedure in place, under Rice Program director Francisco Malabanan, seed usage more than doubled to 1.5 million hectares, resulting in record rice yields and increased farmer incomes.

The new management methods utilized were simple. For the first time, weekly monitoring of performance was published weekly across the country. With a new reward and punishment system in place, with prizes going to the top performers, a participant's pride in work is thought to have been a key motivator behind the increased yield. The person's performance appears in the weekly publication.

## Doing things right

For instance, a female DA regional director in Bicol used to be at the bottom of the list. But when her name continued to be there, she tried out new systems, such as getting local government involvement. She eventually emerged at the top of the list, showing to all, through the weekly publication, that she could succeed.

As the DA welcomes Alyansa's involvement to better identify the farmers' needs as they themselves see it, it is hoped that the agency will also welcome MAP-ABCD's involvement to improve the management of the service delivery system to meet these needs.

It is not only important to do the right things (identifying the appropriate solutions to identified needs), but also to do things right (using the best management systems to implement these solutions).

This is where management expertise found in organizations like the MAP-ABCD can contribute significantly to the DA and, consequently, our agricultural development.

*(The author is Agriwatch chair; former Cabinet secretary for presidential flagship programs and projects, and former undersecretary of agriculture and trade and industry. For inquiries and suggestions, email agriwatchphil@yahoo.com or telefax 02-8514954.)*

# Efforts …

From page B1

workers are, in the long term, now compromised," Medalla yesterday said.

According to Medalla, the peso's gains may have improved the country's fiscal position, but it must end at some point, and should not breach the P51 level.

"The problem with the rapid peso appreciation is that it has been very drastic… exporters are not given enough time to adjust," said Cielito Habito of the Ateneo School of Economics during a forum of the Philippine Economics Society held last Wednesday. "The peso's gain is now affecting their competitiveness."

Habito said that foreign investors may have been bullish with the peso's rebound, but so far, only portfolio investments have poured in only for the short term.

Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry president Sergio Ortiz-Luis Jr. said that the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas would have to intervene soon to slow down the peso's continuing rise.

If the export industry wants to stay afloat, the peso must stay within the 52:$1 level, Ortiz-Luis said.

"Finance officials and the national treasury can prevent further appreciation of the peso simply by borrowing more in peso," Medalla said.

# ATR Kim-Eng to vote US fund's stake in PSE

**By Elizabeth L. Sanchez**

AN INVESTMENT AFFILIATE of American fund Equinox Partners LP will vote its 8.5-percent stake in the Philippine Stock Exchange through broker ATR Kim-Eng Securities, during the bourse's annual stockholders' meeting and board elections on Saturday, INQUIRER sources said.

Last year, an affiliate of Equinox Partners bought PSE shares from Singaporean investment firm Kim Eng Group, the sources said.

The Equinox Group, through global custodian Goldman Sachs and local custodian Standard Chartered Bank, had assigned its proxies to ATR Kim-Eng Securities for Saturday's stockholders' meeting and elections.

Other institutions expected to vote their shares on Saturday are the retirement funds of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. Group, the San Miguel Corp. group and state pension fund Government Service and Insurance System.

INQUIRER also learned that the PSE had validated the proxies assigned to ATR Kim-Eng Securities.

PSE director William Ang, who is among those nominated for this year's elections, had questioned the validation by the PSE corporate secretary of the proxy executed in favor of ATR Kim-Eng. Ang cited insufficient documents submitted by Stanchart as required by the nominations and elections committee.

Ang dispelled talk that his move was politically motivated. "If we have a rule, we should follow it and apply it to all stockholders."

Of the PSE's total board seats, seven will be occupied by stockbrokers and eight by private sector nominees. Big broker nominees—or those with capital of more than P500 million—are PSE directors Vivian Yuchengco, Robert Coyiuto Jr. and William Ang of Astra Securities Corp., Eddie Gobing of Lucky Securities, Alejandro Yu of R.S. Lim & Co., Myron Timothy Papa of Papa Securities, Edwin Luy of Triton Securities Corp., Marita Limlingan of Regina Securities and Conrado Bate of CitisecOnline.

For the small broker category, nominated are Francisco Villaroman of Securities Specialists Inc., Rodolfo Cruz of HK Securities and Joseph Roxas of Eagle Equities.

Non-broker directors nominated are Anabelle Chua of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. Group and Amor Iliscupidez of the San Miguel Corp. Group. Roy Joseph Rafols was also nominated to represent the interest of the Government Service and Insurance System.

# BSP maintains key overnight rates

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG Pilipinas yesterday kept its key overnight interest rates steady for the sixth straight month given the favorable impact of the peso appreciation and softening oil prices on the country's inflation.

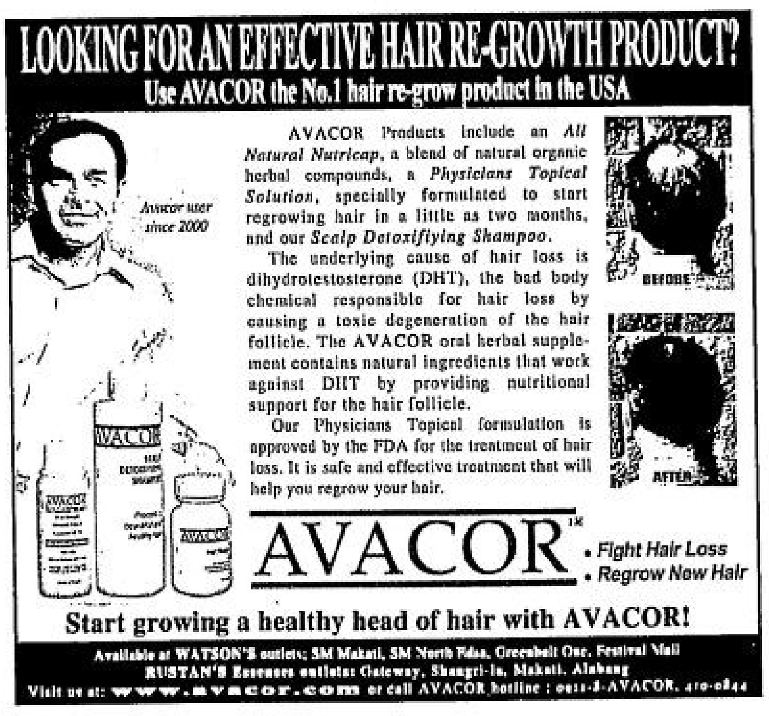
The Monetary Board maintained the BSP's overnight borrowing rate at 7.5 percent and lending rate at 9.75 percent, noting that prevailing conditions for consumer prices gave it enough room to keep the key policy rates steady in the near term.

"In particular, the recent easing of oil prices and the continued stability of the peso should help keep inflation pressures in check in the near term," BSP officer-in-charge Nestor Espenilla Jr. said.

BSP/ B4

| Investment Funds of Wealth Builder and Wealth Secure | UNIT PRICES (in Php) | |
|---|---|---|
| | April 3, 2006 | March 27, 2006 |
| **Fixed Income Fund** | 1.160854 | 1.152685 |
| **Balanced Fund** | 1.148596 | 1.143612 |
| **Equity Fund** | 1.122206 | 1.124576 |

These investment funds are specific to variable life insurance contracts and are not considered mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission.
The weekly unit prices are also available at www.insularlife.com.ph.



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## *Simply Delightful: The Amenities at East of Galleria*

Like a Swiss mint chocolate, it is impeccably different and simply irresistible - the 4th level amenity zone at East of Galleria, that is. Offering a tasteful difference and romanticized feeling that even select connoisseurs will find hard to resist. Nothing could be better.

A new lifestyle set amidst at the heart of Ortigas Center, East of Galleria's amenity zone is a sight to behold, with its sheer size of 853 sqm area equivalent to two NBA-sized basketball courts - the whole amenity area can be had for just an investment of 38 sqm or a one-bedroom unit. Marvel at the videoke rooms, 9-Ball Billiards, Poker Games, Darts, Wi-Fi use, Fitness Center, Landscaped Gardens, Jogging Path, Swimming Pool and much more.

Robinsons Land Corporation (RLC), the Condominium Developer of Choice, made the place so delightful that all the choicest amenities where tucked under one floor.

"When you purchase a piece of property such as the East of Galleria, its more than just a home that you are looking for," said Mr. Danilo E. Ignacio, General Manager of RLC High-Rise Buildings Division. "What you are actually doing is investing in a lifestyle or a lifelong dream to live the good life in true, no holds barred fashion."

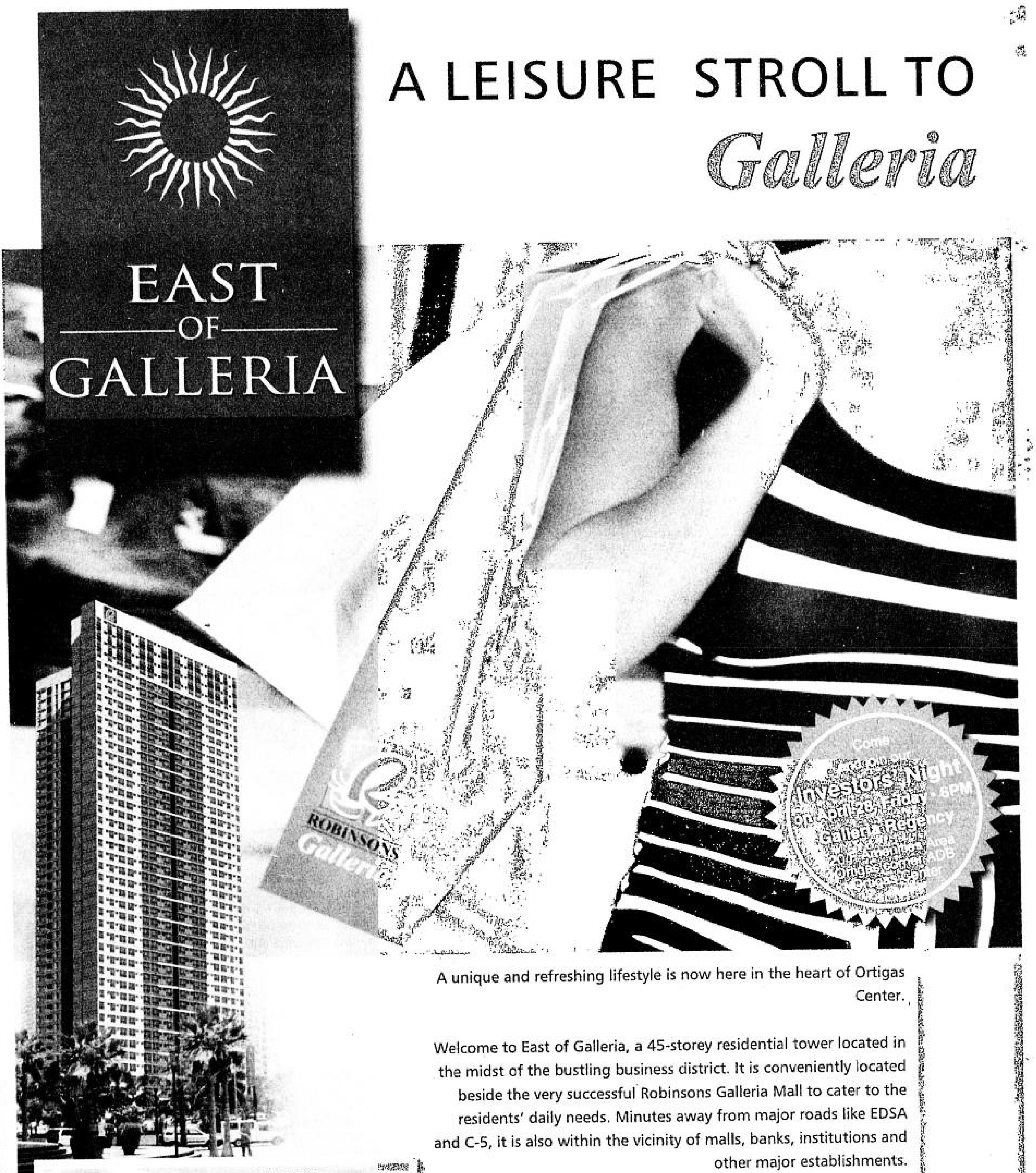
A place that gives more to residents - spending time at the 4th level can be an exhilarating experience for everyone. Its Wi-Fi zone makes it convenient to navigate the cyberspace, chat, surf the net, play web games or just browse on latest e-mails - a total wireless solution for people on the go.

To say that this place can "satisfy every whim" may be an understatement. Some say it's an oasis, and some say it's just endless. Whatever people may call it - it's a unique place that's truly alive and with steeped gradations of hues to compliment every mood and lifestyles.

And if one wants to celebrate with relatives or even associates, a resident may use the modern game room whose billiards, darts and two-tournament size multifunctional tables are well-appointed to suit even the discerning tastes. Or, opt to test one's vocal expression as there are two classy videoke rooms to choose from. So whether one's voice is high, mid or flat - the videoke sound facilities will have something for everyone.

East of Galleria, located along Topaz Street, Ortigas Center, is a 45-storey wonder just a block away from the very successful Robinsons Galleria Mall. Experience the amenity zone at its highest with the panoramic views of the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club for as low as P2.2M. Models are affordably available in 1-BR, 2-BR, and 3-BR Bi-Level and Loft Type units.

*For inquiries, please call Robinsons Land Corporation High-Rise Buildings Division at 636-0888 or 0922-8380888.*



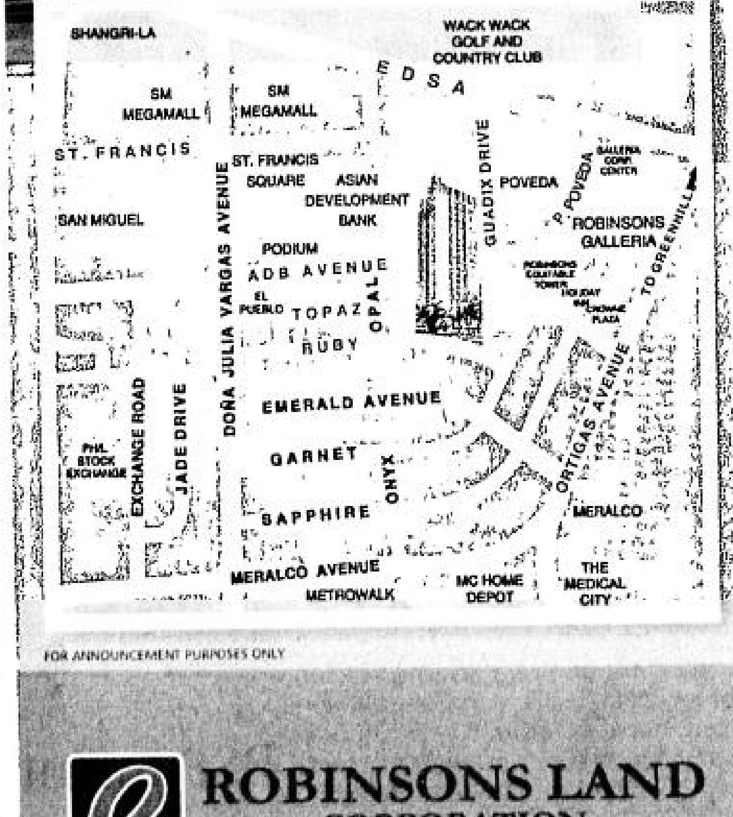
EAST OF GALLERIA
A LEISURE STROLL TO
Galleria
ROBINSONS Galleria
Come
Investors' Night
on April 28 Friday · 6PM
Galleria Regency
Area
ADB

A unique and refreshing lifestyle is now here in the heart of Ortigas Center.

Welcome to East of Galleria, a 45-storey residential tower located in the midst of the bustling business district. It is conveniently located beside the very successful Robinsons Galleria Mall to cater to the residents' daily needs. Minutes away from major roads like EDSA and C-5, it is also within the vicinity of malls, banks, institutions and other major establishments.

East of Galleria truly embodies the ideal of comfort and convenience, offering the best of both worlds with the choice of either bi-level or loft-type units. Available in one, two and three-bedroom units, East of Galleria assures residents of utmost privacy in condo living as the master's bedroom is located a level above the dining, kitchen and living areas. High ceilings, airy atmosphere and expansive glass windows feature breathtaking views of the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club as well as a multitude of magnificent skylines.

At the heart of the busy city lies a comfortable and affordable home, here at East of Galleria.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PODIUM
ADB AVENUE
EL PUEBLO
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OPAL
RUBY
GUADIX DRIVE
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P. POVEDA
GALLERIA CORP. CENTER
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# Chinese firm putting up $300-M glass plant in Subic

## SBMA chief in Mainland to sign contracts

By Ronnel W. Domingo

CHINESE FIRM HEBEI JINGNIU GROUP HAS decided to put up a $300-million manufacturing base for high-tech glass pr oducts in Subic, Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority Administrator Armand Arreza said in a statement.

Arreza left Tuesday for China to sign contracts with Hebei officials.

In the same statement, Arreza said the project was expected to create about 6,000 new jobs, half of which would be available during the construction phase. Another 2,000 jobs would be for production workers and the remaining 1,000 would be for administrative workers.

Last February, Hebei Jingniu president Wang Chang Li said his company had already chosen a suitable site for the factory near the Subic Gateway District inside the freeport.

The glass factory would need at least 100 hectares of industrial flat lands to accommodate the necessary structures to produce high-tech products such as rolling crystallite glass and coated on-line float glass.

Hebei's output would be exported to at least 50 markets in Europe, Asia, America and Africa.

Company officials said the company's products were up to eight times more wear-resistant than alloy steel and up to 25 times more corrosion-resistant than stainless steel.

They said Hebei output were "very suitable" to use as industry and building materials.

The company also produces float sheet glass, solar control reflective glasses and multi-colored high-tech rolling crystallite glass with various specifications.

The project is one of those conceptualized during President Macapagal-Arroyo's official visit to China in 2004. Back then, Hebei officials said they were interested to put up an industrial zone that would include two on-line production lines for coated float glass, which means that the coating could be put on the glass while the glass is being manufactured. The business park would also have two high-technology rolling crystallite glass lines; one deep-processing line and another line that could combine the first two.

Hebei also wants to put up a 30,000-kilovolt ampere power plant and a production line for plastic yacht, which would be the first in the country.

**MACTAN ECOZONE ENTERPRISE**
Raymond Tan, chair of Yuen Thai Philippines (right), shows Cebu City Representative Raul Del Mar samples of the products made in the company's factory at the Mactan Export Processing Zone in Mactan, Cebu. Yuen Thai Philippines Inc. manufactures Adidas apparel. CDN PHOTO/TONEE DESPOJO

# SMC's 2-mo income up 4%

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

SAN MIGUEL CORP., THE COUNTRY'S LARGEST conglomerate, said its net income for the first two months of the year grew by 4 percent to P988 million.

The company said its two-month income level was buoyed by contributions from foreign operations and gains from the Philippine beverage, food and packaging businesses.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, San Miguel also said net sales revenue surged 30 percent to P38.8 billion from last year's level.

For the first two months of 2006, the combined Australian units of National Foods and Berri Ltd. brought in sales revenue of AU$268 million.

With the improved costs of raw materials, and fixed cost containment, San Miguel's consolidated operating income in January and February rose 50 percent to P3.03 billion, from year-ago level.

The operating income of San Miguel's domestic beer operations rose to P1.69 billion, 10 percent higher than that of last year. Year-to-date revenue was at P7.78 billion, 8 percent higher than the 2005 level. Beer International sales volume for the first two months was 14 percent better than last year's sales. Sales revenue increased 6 percent to US$43.1 million. The positive sales volume performance was brought about by strong results from San Miguel breweries in Greater China and from exports operations.

In the meantime, glass container manufacturer San Miguel Yamamura Asia Corp., a joint venture between San Miguel and Nihon Yamamura Glass Co. Ltd. , increased its capital to P1.7 billion from P500 million. The increase was approved by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) yesterday.

Fresh capital of P1.2 billion was infused by San Miguel and Nihon Yamamura at P720 million each.

# *BPI sees 10% growth in profit*

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE AYALAS' BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISlands, the country's second biggest lender, hopes to grow its profits by at least 10 percent this year from P8.4 billion in 2005 despite shrinking interest rate margins.

In a briefing after the bank's annual stockholders meeting yesterday, BPI president Aurelio Montinola III said macroeconomic fundamentals had turned rosier but benchmark interest rates were easing, pulling down the banks' spreads on loans.

"That means, we have to look at other areas where we can make money," Montinola said.

He said BPI had been selling idle assets to increase its asset management portfolio and expanding its cash remittance service.

He said the lowering of interest rates on the back of an improving fiscal environment would encourage more businesses to seek bank financing for business expansion.

During the stockholders meeting, Montinola said BPI's business volume for the first quarter "looked good" compared to last year's level.

He said if the government could sustain another good year of fiscal performance as against targets, leading to an improved sovereign credit rating, the business climate would further improve.

BPI is also working on unloading more bad assets, especially with an upcoming banking regulation related to stiffer Basle 2 capital adequacy requirements that will raise risk weights on real and other properties owned and acquired to 150 percent.

"Effectively, it will encourage banks to sell assets," Montinola said.

The bank also hopes to trim its non-performing loans ratio to total loans to 5 percent or lower. Recently, it hatched a deal to unload P6.3 billion worth of bad loans to distressed asset trading and managing firm Avenue Asia.

BPI previously enjoyed the lowest NPL ratio among the country's biggest banks until soured loans inherited from recently acquired Prudential Bank jacked up the ratio to 7.44 in the fourth quarter of 2005 from 4.54 percent in the third quarter.

Montinola told stockholders that while BPI would work on lowering its NPL ratio, it would have to keep its doors open to opportunities for "non-organic" expansion. He said once BPI fully absorbed Prudential Bank by September this year, the bank could start considering new acquisitions.

Asked whether BPI was moving to become the country's biggest bank soon, Montinola said the bank would like to focus instead on improving its return on equity.

Its net income of P8.4 billion as of end-2005 resulted in a 14.7 percent ROE, nearing its medium term goal of 15 percent ROE.

# 35% tender offer trigger kept

THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION (SEC) yesterday decided to keep a rule requiring an investor buying at least 35 percent of a listed firm to offer to buy out the rest of the company's stakeholders.

The SEC earlier reviewed the tender offer rule to determine whether to keep the current 35-percent trigger or adopt the 15 percent threshold based on Philippine Securities Regulations Code.

However, four influential private sector groups—the Philippine Stock Exchange, Investment Houses Association of the Philippines, Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines and Bankers Association of the Philippines—had opposed the reduction of the trigger level and lobbied for the retention of the 35-percent level.

In a joint position paper submitted to the SEC, these groups explained that a reduction in the threshold "will discourage foreign investment flows into the Philippines and dampen mergers and acquisitions (M&A) activities.

The drop in M&A activity, in turn, "will lower stock market trading volume," they added.

A lower threshold, according to these groups, will also delay stock market deals and expose investors to increased risks.

They further explained that many direct investment companies or private equity firms, will not consider an investment that is not within the range of $10 million to $20 million. These firms are active stock market players, although they are not keen on getting control of a listed company.

In a supplemental position paper submitted on Tuesday, the PSE said the stock market would lose more investments and lag way behind its neighbors if a lower tender offer trigger was imposed.

"One false step on the matter, and we will look like a slow dwarf tripping over himself in the middle of a race among tall sprinters," PSE president Francis Lim said. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

# Smart extends 3G services nationwide

By Daxim L. Lucas

THE COUNTRY'S LARGEST MOBILE PHONE service provider said on Thursday that its third-generation (3G) network was now available nationwide, giving it the lead in rolling out the new technology.

In a statement, Smart Communications Inc. said it had "significantly extended the reach of its 3G network to more cities and municipalities nationwide, further improving coverage in major urban centers as well as provincial areas."

3G network services allow users to make video calls, share video files, and browse the Internet at faster speeds, among other features.

"In three months since it started its 3G network rollout, Smart has achieved 3G presence in around 60 cities," Smart said. In addition, more than 20 municipalities outside Metro Manila are now covered by Smart 3G.

Smart and its parent firm, Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT), are counting on 3G technology as one of the company's upcoming revenue sources in the face of plateauing demand for existing mobile phone technology.

Rival Globe Telecom Inc. is also aggressively pushing the new technology although company president Gerardo Ablaza said the service was still at the infancy of an expected 15-year cycle.

Smart claims to be "the first and currently the only mobile operator in the Philippines" to publicly offer 3G services since it started opening its network on a free trial basis to its subscribers with 3G-capable handsets in selected key cities last Feb. 14.

The launch came in just less than two months after the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) awarded Smart its 3G license in December 2005.

Smart president Napoleon L. Nazareno said recent developments affirm the company's commitment to establish the country's first nationwide 3G coverage "at the shortest possible time."

"We are doing for Smart 3G what we did first for our analog and then for our GSM network infrastructures," he said.

Smart's network services division head Rolando G. Peña added that more and more subscribers would be able to enjoy services under Smart 3G such as video calling, video streaming, high speed Internet browsing and downloading of special 3G content as a result of the aggressive rollout schedule.

## PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of April 6, 2006)

| STOCKS | OPEN | HIGH | LOW | CLOSE | VOLUME |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **FINANCIAL** | | | | | |
| **BANKS** | | | | | |
| Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc. | 3.75 | 3.85 | 3.75 | 3.8 | 41,000 |
| Banco de Oro Univ. Bank | 35.5 | 36.5 | 35.5 | 36.5 | 1,171,700 |
| Bank of the Phil. Islands | 62 | 62 | 62 | 62 | 1,849,000 |
| China Banking Corp. | 720 | 720 | 720 | 720 | 570 |
| Citystate Savings Bank | 19 | 19 | 19 | 19 | 500 |
| Export and Ind. Bank Inc. | 0.47 | 0.47 | 0.46 | 0.46 | 4,580,000 |
| Equitable PCI Bank Inc. | 72 | 72.5 | 70.5 | 71.5 | 199,300 |
| International Exch. Bank | 33 | 33.5 | 33 | 33 | 123,600 |
| Metropolitan Bank & Trust | 38.5 | 39 | 38 | 38.5 | 262,100 |
| Philippine National Bank | 34 | 35 | 34 | 34.5 | 118,400 |
| Phil. Savings Bank | 38 | 40 | 38 | 40 | 2,300 |
| Philippine Trust Co. | 40 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 1,000 |
| Rizal Comm. Banking Corp. | 13.5 | 14 | 13.5 | 13.75 | 108,000 |
| Security Bank Corp. | 45 | 50 | 45 | 48 | 790,600 |
| Union Bank of the Phil. | 39 | 41.5 | 39 | 41 | 331,300 |
| **OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS** | | | | | |
| First Metro Invest. Corp. | 27.5 | 27.5 | 27.5 | 27.5 | 10,300 |
| Manulife Financial Corp. | 3190 | 3190 | 3190 | 3190 | 160 |
| Phil. Stock Exchange Inc. | 175 | 175 | 175 | 175 | 3,200 |
| Sun Life Financial Inc. | 2160 | 2170 | 2160 | 2170 | 2,300 |
| Ivantage Corp. | 1.04 | 1.08 | 1.04 | 1.06 | 15,927,000 |
| **INDUSTRIAL** | | | | | |
| **ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER** | | | | | |
| First Gen Corp. | 43.5 | 44 | 43.5 | 44 | 353,500 |
| First Phil Hldgs Corp. | 45.5 | 45.5 | 45 | 45.5 | 1,102,900 |
| Manila Electric Co. A | 14.75 | 14.75 | 14.25 | 14.5 | 105,400 |
| Manila Electric Co. B | 21.5 | 21.75 | 21.25 | 21.75 | 646,200 |
| Manila Water Co. Inc. | 6.3 | 6.4 | 6.3 | 6.4 | 1,168,000 |
| Petron Corp. | 4.3 | 4.55 | 4.3 | 4.55 | 3,792,000 |
| East Asia Power Res. Corp. | 0.205 | 0.205 | 0.205 | 0.205 | 480,000 |
| **FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO** | | | | | |
| Alaska Milk Corp. | 3.65 | 3.65 | 3.65 | 3.65 | 105,000 |
| CADP Group Corp. | 1.8 | 1.8 | 1.8 | 1.8 | 32,000 |
| Cosmos Bottling Corp. | 2.1 | 2.1 | 2.1 | 2.1 | 1,000 |
| Ginebra San Miguel Inc. | 19.25 | 19.75 | 19.25 | 19.75 | 261,500 |
| Jollibee Foods Corp. | 36.5 | 37.5 | 36.5 | 37 | 281,500 |
| Pancake House Inc. | 4.05 | 4.05 | 4.05 | 4.05 | 21,000 |
| RFM Corp. | 0.71 | 0.71 | 0.71 | 0.71 | 150,000 |
| Roxas Holdings Inc. | 2.5 | 2.8 | 2.5 | 2.8 | 2,416,000 |
| San Miguel Corp. A | 60.5 | 60.5 | 60 | 60.5 | 84,300 |
| San Miguel Corp. B | 80 | 80.5 | 80 | 80.5 | 159,300 |
| Universal Robina Corp. | 18 | 18.75 | 18 | 18.75 | 3,393,000 |
| Vitarich Corp. | 0.28 | 0.28 | 0.28 | 0.28 | 300,000 |
| **CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES** | | | | | |
| Southeast Asian Cement | 0.3 | 0.31 | 0.3 | 0.31 | 6,390,000 |
| Engineering Equip. Inc. | 1.54 | 1.58 | 1.54 | 1.54 | 6,665,000 |
| Holcim Philippines Inc. | 4.2 | 4.45 | 4.2 | 4.45 | 1,340,000 |
| Republic Cement Corp. | 0.95 | 0.95 | 0.95 | 0.95 | 50,000 |
| **CHEMICALS** | | | | | |
| Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc. | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2,000 |
| **DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS** | | | | | |
| Steniel Manufacturing | 0.48 | 0.5 | 0.48 | 0.5 | 80,000 |
| **HOLDING FIRMS** | | | | | |
| Abacus Con Res & Hdg A | 0.007 | 0.0075 | 0.007 | 0.0075 | 56,000,000 |
| Abacus Con Res & Hdg B | 0.009 | 0.009 | 0.009 | 0.009 | 7,000,000 |
| Ayala Corp. | 352.5 | 357.5 | 352.5 | 357.5 | 96,780 |
| Alsons Cons. Res. Inc. | 0.51 | 0.54 | 0.51 | 0.54 | 160,000 |
| Aboitiz Equity Ventures | 5.2 | 5.3 | 5.2 | 5.3 | 2,210,000 |
| Ajo Net Holdings Inc. | 0.023 | 0.023 | 0.023 | 0.023 | 14,000,000 |
| A. Soriano Corp. | 2.6 | 2.85 | 2.6 | 2.8 | 1,897,000 |
| APC Group Inc. | 0.21 | 0.21 | 0.205 | 0.205 | 3,980,000 |
| Anglo Phil Holdings Corp. | 0.86 | 0.86 | 0.86 | 0.86 | 400,000 |
| Balabac Resources & Hldgs | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 60,000 |
| Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc. | 8.7 | 8.7 | 8.6 | 8.7 | 49,000 |
| Benpres Holdings Corp. | 1.02 | 1.02 | 1 | 1 | 3,060,000 |
| DMCI Holdings Inc. | 3.55 | 3.6 | 3.5 | 3.5 | 544,000 |
| Filinvest Dev. Corp. | 2.85 | 2.9 | 2.8 | 2.85 | 2,542,000 |
| House of Investments Inc. | 1.36 | 1.4 | 1.36 | 1.36 | 195,000 |
| JG Summit Holdings Inc. | 6 | 6 | 5.9 | 6 | 697,000 |
| Keppel Holdings | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 10,000 |
| Medco Holdings | 0.21 | 0.21 | 0.21 | 0.21 | 100,000 |
| Mabuhay Holdings Corp. | 0.14 | 0.14 | 0.14 | 0.14 | 10,000 |
| Multitech Inv. Corp. | 0.26 | 0.26 | 0.26 | 0.26 | 20,000 |
| Prime Orion Phils. Inc. | 0.24 | 0.24 | 0.24 | 0.24 | 1,000,000 |
| Prime Media Holdings Inc. | 1 | 1.02 | 1 | 1.02 | 80,000 |
| Solid Group Inc. | 0.56 | 0.58 | 0.55 | 0.58 | 300,000 |
| Sinophil Corp. | 0.135 | 0.135 | 0.135 | 0.135 | 2,320,000 |
| SM Investments Corp. | 229 | 229 | 228 | 228 | 64,800 |
| South China Resources Inc. | 0.71 | 0.71 | 0.71 | 0.71 | 80,000 |
| Wellex Industries Inc. | 0.125 | 0.125 | 0.125 | 0.125 | 520,000 |
| **PROPERTY** | | | | | |
| Ayala Land Inc. | 11.5 | 11.5 | 10.75 | 11 | 8,292,600 |
| Araneta Properties Inc. | 0.32 | 0.32 | 0.32 | 0.32 | 10,000 |
| Belle Corp. | 1.12 | 1.14 | 1.12 | 1.14 | 5,515,000 |
| Crown Equities Inc. | 0.27 | 0.27 | 0.27 | 0.27 | 350,000 |
| Cebu Holdings Inc. | 1.84 | 1.86 | 1.84 | 1.86 | 556,000 |
| C&P Homes Inc. | 1.62 | 1.66 | 1.62 | 1.66 | 14,000 |
| Cyber Bay Corp. | 0.21 | 0.21 | 0.205 | 0.205 | 1,130,000 |
| Empire East Land Inc. | 0.66 | 0.66 | 0.65 | 0.65 | 14,850,000 |
| Ever-Gotesco Resources | 0.028 | 0.028 | 0.028 | 0.028 | 100,000 |
| Fairmont Holdings Inc. | 0.68 | 0.68 | 0.68 | 0.68 | 120,000 |
| Filinvest Land Inc. | 1.34 | 1.36 | 1.32 | 1.34 | 8,078,000 |
| Highlands Prime Inc. | 3.4 | 3.4 | 3.35 | 3.35 | 200,000 |
| Kuok Phil. Properties | 0.22 | 0.225 | 0.22 | 0.225 | 1,530,000 |
| Fil-Estate Land Inc. | 0.54 | 0.54 | 0.54 | 0.54 | 900,000 |
| Megaworld Corp. | 1.54 | 1.58 | 1.5 | 1.56 | 61,250,000 |
| Metro Pacific Corp. | 0.29 | 0.29 | 0.28 | 0.29 | 33,430,000 |
| MRC Allied Ind. Inc. | 0.26 | 0.26 | 0.24 | 0.245 | 3,160,000 |
| Robinsons Land Corp. | 8.1 | 8.3 | 8 | 8.1 | 423,000 |
| Phil Realty and Holdings | 0.28 | 0.29 | 0.28 | 0.29 | 5,050,000 |
| SM Development Corp. | 1.58 | 1.6 | 1.58 | 1.6 | 251,000 |
| SM Prime Holdings Inc. | 7.9 | 7.9 | 7.8 | 7.9 | 3,130,000 |
| Uniwide Holdings Inc. | 0.13 | 0.13 | 0.125 | 0.13 | 2,910,000 |
| **MEDIA** | | | | | |
| ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. | 12.25 | 12.25 | 12.25 | 12.25 | 34,300 |
| Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp. | 1.36 | 1.36 | 1.36 | 1.36 | 18,000 |
| **TELECOMMUNICATIONS** | | | | | |
| Digital Telecom Phils Inc. | 0.99 | 1 | 0.98 | 1 | 4,460,000 |
| Globe Telecom Inc. | 880 | 895 | 880 | 890 | 75,520 |
| Pilipino Tel. Corp. | 3.05 | 3.05 | 3 | 3.05 | 7,656,000 |
| Phil. Long Dis Tel Co. | 1940 | 1980 | 1940 | 1975 | 148,980 |
| **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY** | | | | | |
| Boulevard Holdings Inc. | 0.185 | 0.185 | 0.185 | 0.185 | 1,500,000 |
| ISM Communications Corp. | 0.049 | 0.05 | 0.049 | 0.05 | 600,000 |
| Music Semiconductors Corp. | 1.12 | 1.12 | 1.12 | 1.12 | 90,000 |
| Philweb Corp. | 0.024 | 0.024 | 0.023 | 0.024 | 29,700,000 |
| **TRANSPORTATION SERVICES** | | | | | |
| Asian Terminals Inc. | 2.46 | 2.55 | 2.46 | 2.5 | 820,000 |
| Int'l Container Term'l Sv | 12 | 12.75 | 12 | 12.75 | 2,011,800 |
| Keppel Phils. Marine Inc. | 0.97 | 0.97 | 0.97 | 0.97 | 50,000 |
| Lorenzo Shipping Corp. | 1.36 | 1.36 | 1.36 | 1.36 | 13,000 |
| **HOTEL & LEISURE** | | | | | |
| Leisure & Resorts Corp. | 1.76 | 1.76 | 1.72 | 1.74 | 2,118,000 |
| Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc. | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 100,000 |
| Philippine Racing Club | 3.3 | 3.3 | 3.3 | 3.3 | 100,000 |
| Waterfront Phils. Inc. | 0.45 | 0.46 | 0.45 | 0.46 | 710,000 |
| **EDUCATION** | | | | | |
| Ipeople Inc. | 3.15 | 3.15 | 3.15 | 3.15 | 250,000 |
| **DIVERSIFIED SERVICES** | | | | | |
| Macroasia Corp. | 1.88 | 1.88 | 1.74 | 1.74 | 1,172,000 |
| Paxys Inc. | 9.3 | 9.4 | 9.2 | 9.4 | 717,000 |
| **MINING** | | | | | |
| Apex Mining Co. Inc. A | 1.46 | 1.48 | 1.4 | 1.44 | 1,520,000 |
| Apex Mining Co. Inc. B | 1.54 | 1.54 | 1.44 | 1.5 | 651,000 |
| Abra Mining & Industrial | 0.0065 | 0.0065 | 0.0065 | 0.0065 | 12,000,000 |
| Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't | 6.8 | 6.8 | 6.7 | 6.7 | 844,000 |
| Benguet Corp. A | 8.1 | 8.1 | 8 | 8 | 92,000 |
| Dizon Copper Silver Mines | 1.3 | 1.52 | 1.3 | 1.52 | 22,000 |
| Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A | 0.26 | 0.27 | 0.25 | 0.27 | 58,840,000 |
| Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B | 0.31 | 0.32 | 0.29 | 0.32 | 20,790,000 |
| Manila Mining Corp. A | 0.021 | 0.022 | 0.021 | 0.021 | 519,300,000 |
| Manila Mining Corp. B | 0.029 | 0.03 | 0.029 | 0.03 | 177,000,000 |
| Omico Corp. | 0.006 | 0.007 | 0.006 | 0.007 | 2,901,000,000 |
| Philex Mining Corp. A | 3 | 3.05 | 2.9 | 2.9 | 11,180,000 |
| Philex Mining Corp. B | 3.05 | 3.05 | 2.9 | 2.9 | 10,911,000 |
| Semirara Mining Corp. | 26 | 27.5 | 26 | 27 | 517,000 |
| United Paragon Mining Co. | 0.36 | 0.36 | 0.34 | 0.34 | 1,650,000 |
| Vulcan Ind'l | 0.36 | 0.37 | 0.35 | 0.36 | 1,120,000 |
| **OIL** | | | | | |
| Basic Consolidated Inc. | 0.25 | 0.25 | 0.245 | 0.25 | 1,480,000 |
| Oriental Pet. & Min. A | 0.0085 | 0.0085 | 0.008 | 0.008 | 50,000,000 |
| Oriental Pet. & Min. B | 0.009 | 0.009 | 0.009 | 0.009 | 47,000,000 |
| The Philodrill Corp. A | 0.52 | 0.54 | 0.52 | 0.53 | 660,000 |
| The Philodrill Corp. B | 0.54 | 0.55 | 0.54 | 0.55 | 70,000 |
| **PREFERRED** | | | | | |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series H | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 700 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series M | 10.75 | 10.75 | 10.75 | 10.75 | 100 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series N | 10.75 | 10.75 | 10.75 | 10.75 | 300 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series O | 10.75 | 10.75 | 10.75 | 10.75 | 600 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series P | 10.75 | 10.75 | 10.75 | 10.75 | 500 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series Q | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 100 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series T | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 100 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series U | 10.75 | 10.75 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 900 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series V | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 1,300 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series W | 10.75 | 10.75 | 10.75 | 10.75 | 500 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series X | 10.75 | 10.75 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 1,300 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y | 10.75 | 10.75 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 3,500 |
| PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 1,000 |
| **WARRANTS, PHIL. DEPOSIT RECEIPTS, ETC.** | | | | | |
| ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (PDR) | 12.25 | 12.5 | 12.25 | 12.5 | 256,900 |
| **SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES** | | | | | |
| Cashrounds Inc. | 4.5 | 4.5 | 4.5 | 4.5 | 2,000 |

## CURRENCIES

| April 6, 2006<br>Country | Unit | Euro Equivalent | Dollar Equivalent | Peso Equivalent |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| United States | Dollar | 0.813537 | 1.000000 | 50.9970 |
| Japan | Yen | 0.006933 | 0.008522 | 0.4346 |
| United Kingdom | Pound | 1.427514 | 1.754700 | 89.4844 |
| Hong Kong | Dollar | 0.104852 | 0.128884 | 6.5727 |
| Switzerland | Franc | 0.633892 | 0.779180 | 39.7358 |
| Canada | Dollar | 0.700058 | 0.860511 | 43.8835 |
| Singapore | Dollar | 0.506435 | 0.622510 | 31.7461 |
| Australia | Dollar | 0.591019 | 0.726480 | 37.0483 |
| Bahrain | Dinar* | 2.158096 | 2.652731 | 135.2813 |
| Saudi Arabia | Rial | 0.216920 | 0.266638 | 13.5977 |
| Brunei | Dollar | 0.504863 | 0.620578 | 31.6476 |
| Indonesia | Rupiah | 0.000090 | 0.000111 | 0.0057 |
| Thailand | Baht | 0.021269 | 0.026144 | 1.3333 |
| UAE | Dirham | 0.221503 | 0.272272 | 13.8851 |
| Euro | Euro | 1.000000 | 1.229200 | 62.6855 |
| India | Rupee | 0.018290 | 0.022482 | 1.1465 |
| Malaysia | Ringgit | 0.221612 | 0.272405 | 13.8918 |
| Mexico | New Peso | 0.073884 | 0.090818 | 4.6314 |
| South Africa | Rand | 0.135088 | 0.166050 | 8.4681 |
| Korea | Won | 0.000850 | 0.001045 | 0.0533 |
| Taiwan | Nt Dollar | 0.025085 | 0.030835 | 1.5725 |

# BSP maintains key . . .

From page B3

"Demand and credit indicators continue to suggest softness, while liquidity growth has stabilized to single-digit levels," Espenilla said.

He said inflation would likely remain stable, noting that even the recent hike in the value-added tax rate had resulted only in one-time price increases.

*Doris Dumlao*

# Equitable equivocation

### COCKTALES

**Victor C. Agustin**

THE OPTIMISTIC ASSESSMENT by Winston Garcia that he could swing the buyout of the SM-BDO block in Equitable PCIBank within this month is losing buoyancy, given that the lawyers involved in the negotiations are increasingly talking in different wavelengths.

First, some background.

The Siguion Reyna Montecillo & Ongsiako law firm, on behalf of an undisclosed principal, made an unsolicited "statement of interest" to acquire the SM-Banco de Oro stake.

The written offer, for a still unclear reason, was coursed through Garcia, the president of the Government Service Insurance System and also one of the three vice chairs of Equitable PCIBank.

In return, Herrera Teehankee Faylona & Cabrera answered that their client, SM-BDO, was not selling its Equitable PCIBank shareholding.

Nevertheless, the law firm added, the family of taipan Henry Sy Sr. would consider disposing of their stake upon receipt of a "binding offer" of P95 a share.

This is where the negotiation degenerates into a "you-show-me-yours, I'll-show-you-mine" routine.

The Siguion Reyna firm then answered back that their *pañeros* should first hand over a "written mandate by the SM-BDO Group to sell the SM-BDO shares."

"As soon as the SM-BDO commits to sell, then the binding offer follows," said Siguion Reyna lawyer Rolando Mario Villonco.

("Opap" Villonco is more popularly known as the favorite son-in-law of movie producer-actress-singer Armida Siguion Reyna as well as the father of singer Cris Villonco. The Montecillo in his law firm refers to Manuel, whose younger brother, Teodoro, incidentally, sits on the Banco de Oro board. But we digress.)

By way of answer, the SM-BDO lawyers then reminded the opposite counsels that the SM-BDO stake was "not being offered for sale [and] hence, no mandate letter will be issued."

Instead of working overtime for their windfall fees on the P20.5-billion deal, the senior partners of Siguion Reyna law firm flew to Italy beginning Wednesday for their scheduled Mediterranean cruise.

Villonco himself, accompanied by his father-in-law, name partner Leonardo Siguion Reyna, will not be back until April 24, when he would presumably draft and submit a more credible "binding offer" to the SM-BDO group.

Rather than sit and bite his nails in anticipation of such happenstance, the president of the pressured seller Banco de Oro, Nestor Tan, also flew abroad for the Holy Week break, bringing his family.

In the meantime, in the absence of the negotiating parties, the GSIS announced that the deadline for the submission of bids for the GSIS block has yet again been postponed.

The new date, May 8, comes amid the reluctance of GSIS chair Bernardino Abes, according to the grapevine, to issue a board invitation to the Social Security System, which Abes used to head, for a joint sale of the SSS-GSIS blocks in Equitable PCIBank.

#### Money-go-round

- FORMER Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin, upon the sponsorship of Petron chair Nicasio Alcantara (brother of Venable promoter Tomas Alcantara), has been elected independent director of the listed petroleum company.
- SEC Chair Fe Barin left yesterday for a month-long overseas holiday, confident that the mice and the occasional rats in the Securities and Exchange Commission will not misbehave while the cat is away.
- Impresario-religious benefactor Rose Marie Jimenez Arenas will be conferred an honorary doctorate in humanities by the Lyceum-Northwestern University of Pangasinan on Tuesday.

#### Heard through the grapevine

A POPULAR Metro Manila mayor who fought Marcos during the dark days of martial misrule is unfortunately now stricken with the same disease, requiring weekly treatment, that plagued the late strongman in his remaining years.

*(Email: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)*

# Investments in Peza-registered projects up 4% to ₱14.52B in Q1

**By Ronnel W. Domingo**

INVESTMENTS IN EXPORT-ORIENTED PROjects registered with the Philippine Economic Zone Authority inched up by 4 percent to P14.52 billion in the first quarter, the agency reported yesterday.

Peza also announced that export earnings from the ecozones reached $5.1 billion in the first two months or 9.5 percent higher than the $4.7 billion posted in the same period last year.

The number of jobs seen to have been created in the country's 81 public and private ecozones and buildings was pegged at around 1.2 million or 12.5 percent better than the 1.1 million level reached as of end-February 2005.

Peza Director General Lilia de Lima said there were 119 projects listed as of end-March, which was 72.5 percent higher than the 69 projects registered in the same period in 2005.

Of the investments committed in the first three months of the year, some P2.4 billion represented 30 information technology-related projects.

IT investments increased 263.6 percent from the nine projects worth P663 million that were registered in the first quarter of last year.

In the IT sector alone, new jobs generated were expected to reach about 15,400 or 345 percent higher than the previous level of some 3,500 jobs.

During the first quarter, locators committed to invest a total of P10.1 billion in 102 projects while ecozone developers earmarked some P4.4 billion in 17 projects.

In March alone, Peza gave the green light to a total of 44 projects worth about P6.1 billion, which are expected to bring in an average of $1.25 billion in export earnings a year.

Some of the biggest projects registered from January to March include those of economic zone developer Jovima Management and Development—the operation and maintenance of a P115.2-million, seven-story building and a P79.7-million, four-story building.

Also approved during the period was a P34.7-million back office transaction processing operation, a P32-million manufacturing facility for protective tapes and films for liquid crystal displays, and P24.6 million contact call center.

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| Investments of Variable Life Insurance Contracts | Current Week Apr. 4, 2006 | Last Week Mar. 28, 2006 |
|---|---|---|
| Bond Fund - Peso | 1.45526 | 1.44675 |
| Managed Fund - Peso | 1.57682 | 1.56602 |
| Growth Fund - Peso | 1.19389 | 1.18355 |
| Bond Fund - US Dollar | 1.2483 | 1.2481 |

* Note: These investments of variable life insurance contracts are not mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission

# Total sees steady growth in RP lubricants market

**By Abigail L. Ho**

SINGAPORE—TOTAL OIL ASIA PTE LTD., THE Asia-Pacific headquarters of France's Total SA, expects the Philippine lubricants market to grow in the coming years, in line with the growth of the country's gross domestic product.

KC Foo, Total managing director for lubricants in Singapore, said in a briefing here that the oil firm's Philippine arm, Total (Philippines) Corp., recently placed an order for 39 containers of lubricants, an increase from the usual demand of only nine containers a month.

The containers, which contain 16,000 liters of various lubricants each, would be enough to cover the April and May demand for lubricants in the Philippines, he said.

"Indications show that the Philippines is fast developing. The Philippines has increased its demand and it seems to be moving (toward growth)," he said.

The Philippines registered a stable volume growth from 2004 to 2005, he said.

He added that the Philippines had achieved a stable volume growth similar to those in Singapore, Japan and Thailand, albeit at a slower pace.

The strong GDP growth in the region, he said, was expected to fuel future growth in the lubricants market, including that of the Philippines.

Had Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. not mothballed its base oil production plant in the country, he said the Philippines could have been a logical site for Total to establish a lubricants blending facility.

Total currently has blending facilities in India, China, Vietnam, Thailand and Singapore.

"Right now, it's highly unlikely to build a facility in the Philippines because Shell has stopped its base oil production," he said. "It won't make sense to have a blending facility there and then have to import the base oil from somewhere else."

He said, however, that a critical mass in terms of demand volume could prompt the company to set up a blending facility in the Philippines. But this was set at a high 10,000 tons a year.

# Shares

From page B1

following Wall Street's overnight upturn also inspired buyers, with turnover turning brisk after the main index breached the 2,200 points resistance level.

The composite index added 22.47 points to 2,220.37, just off its intra-day high of 2,221.49. It hit a low of 2,201.19. This was the best finish since Aug. 27, 1999 when it settled at 2,221.24.

Volume was 5.19 billion shares worth P2.41 billion ($47.16 million).

The all-shares index rose 22.71 points to 1,101.43.

Gainers led losers 62 to 33, with 56 stocks unchanged.

The peso was at 51.10 to the dollar by midday.

PLDT, the most actively traded stock, advanced P40 to P1,975. *AFP*

## ERRATUM

**Philam Plans' trust fund has closely reached P20 Billion not P20 Million as stated in the photo caption of the article "Philam Plans - Earning people's trust, fulfilling Filipino dreams," published last March 31, 2003, Business Friday Section.**

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* 500T - 999T = 11% p.a.
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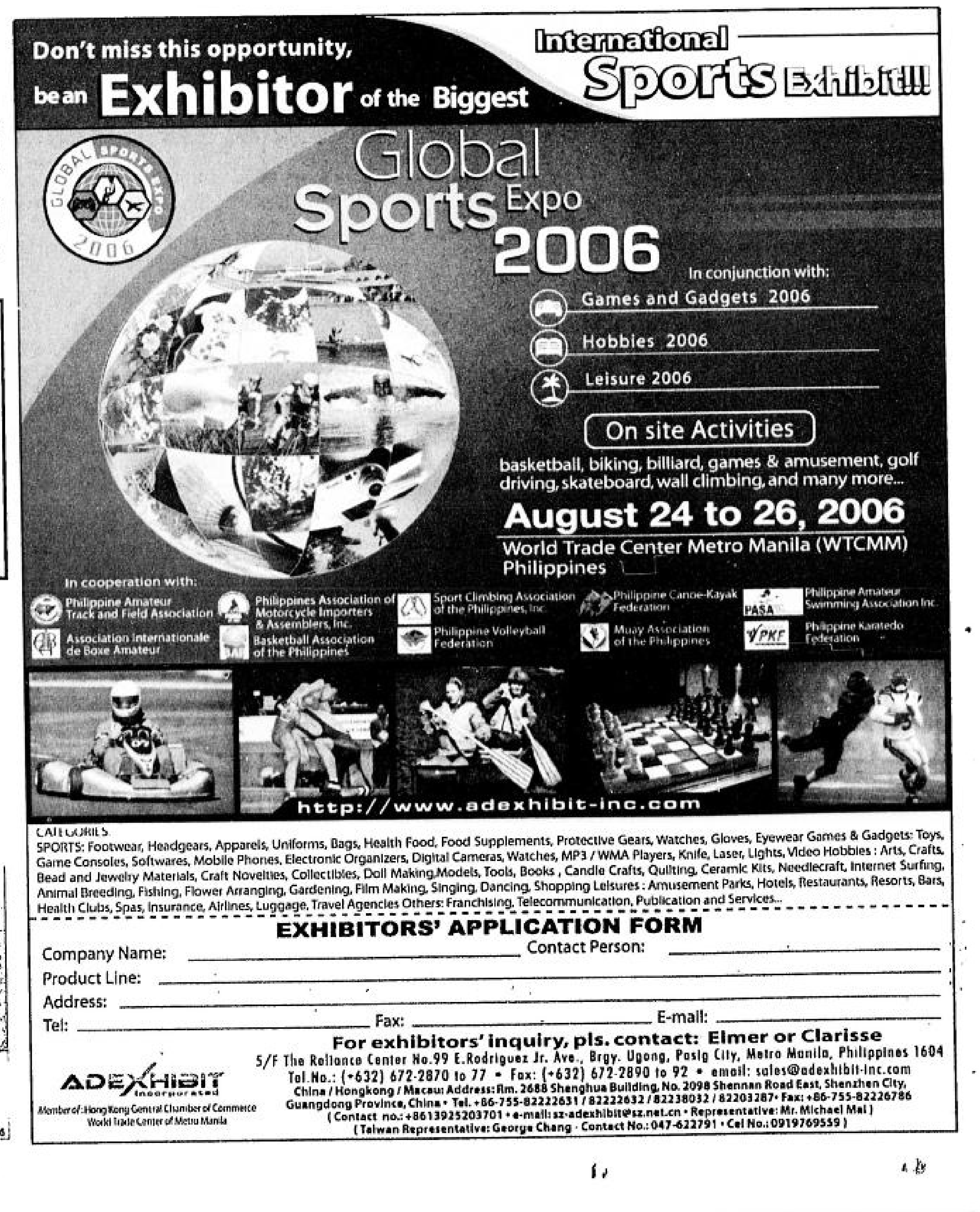
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CrestaGrande offers some of the very best plots of land where you can have your home designed and built. These magnificent plots enjoy beautiful views of the sea and mountains, the wharf and the golf courses. CrestaGrande Subdivision is a unique seaside lot development within a two hour drive of Metro Manila.

All CrestaGrande resort clients can savor the experience of breathtaking views of ocean and hilly forests and be enthralled from the bizarre sounds from the preserved fauna. Residents can still enjoy 180 different species of birds an hour if you have the Audubon patience. Contrast that to Mount Makiling's 90 different birds per hour. If not into birds or bird sounds one can play golf next door in Puerto Azul Golf Club's Gary Player-Ron Kirby designed championship course. The course has a rating from U.S. Golf Digest to be one of "100 Best Courses outside the United States" (at www.crestagrande.com under "golf news" or in Google under U.S. Golf digest 100 best courses).

Located just 90 minutes away from the hustle and bustle of Metro Manila lies the proposed CrestaGrande Resort Community, a viable and utterly impressive tract of land that sits on top of a ridge that divides the Paniman Valley and the world-famous Puerto Azul Golf and Country Club. With around 193 lots that measure 500 to 1,000 square meter areas each, Cresta Grande lots offers panoramic views of the legendary Puerto Azul golf course and the vast mountains that surround it. All these lots have southwest and predominantly northeast views of the ocean for that wonderful and breathtaking ocean feel.

In adjacent Puerto Azul plans to complete a three-tower residential condominium building located in the Marina, a Puerto Azul Yacht Club & Boathouse and commercial buildings are already in the pipeline. At the Puerto Azul Golf & Country Club, efforts are seriously being made to be more competitive in the tourism industry. More important, to place Puerto Azul properly on the map of international destinations, plans are now also underway to construct a high end 500 room resort hotel, situated in the Paniman Valley & Beach area. To complement the hotel, the developers intend to implement the completed course design by Robert Trent Jones, Jr. for another world class 18 hole golf course behind the hotel. So far, even without the new projects planned through the next 3 years, the current influx of local and international tourists commending the uniqueness of its world-class golf course is one of the proofs to attest to this.

Living at CrestaGrande is one that promises an honest-to-goodness and enthralling experience truly reserved for the modern and successful Filipinos. The resort offers unparalleled beauty that begins with the wonderful palette of colors that paint across the clear blue skies, the cool and gentle breeze emanating from the verdant forests and mountains, and of course, the birds that parade over the majestic sky of CrestaGrande, all 180 species of them, waiting to be ogled at and appreciated wholeheartedly by residents.

CrestaGrande truly appeals to people despite the diversity of their interest. Whether you're a sports buff or a beach bum, there can be no dull moment at CrestaGrande.

There, golf is a primary experience, and nothing beats the thrill and the pleasure of touring the grand and world-class quality golf course at the nearby Puerto Azul, where free 10-year playing rights is granted to Cresta Grande residents. As mentioned already, for those willing to wait, there is another golf course being built at the scenic Paniman Valley, an 18-Hole Robert Trent Jones championship course designed by the legendary golfer Gary Player and Ron Kirby.

Meanwhile, for the beach buddies daring enough to take on a new adventure, water sports activities abound at Cresta Grande, like sailing or jet-skiing. Of course, there are other sports facilities like the swimming pool, tennis, and basketball courts, bowling lane, driving range, and yes, the golf course, where residents can hone their skills, tone their bodies, or simply have fun with other residents and friends.

For the brave souls, on the other hand, who want to explore the beauty of nature further, lung-busting treks and family camp-outs can also be had at the resort, each one promising a truly unusual experience.

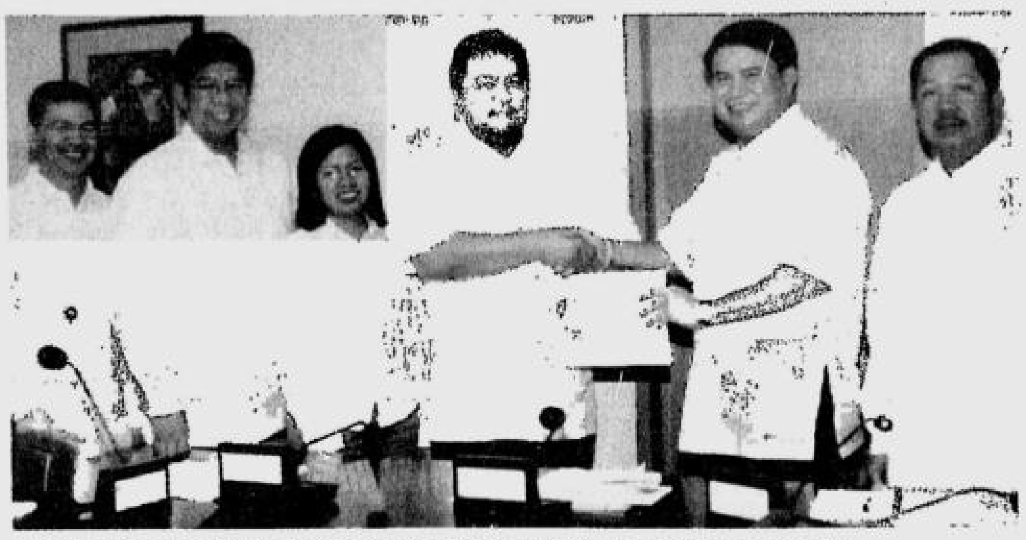
But for the simple, calm, and relaxed types, especially couples, nothing beats a simple stroll along the tranquil and unflustered shores of Cala Paniman and Cala Caysubic beaches. There, they can enjoy the glistening sand as it engulfs the feet with delight at every step, each one delivering unimaginable pleasure and unmistakable thrill and ecstasy only the adjacent beaches of Puerto Azul could bring. The restaurants and bars within the community offer the same blissful CrestaGrande experience.

CrestaGrande developer Cala Paniman Inc. wasted no time in bringing interested buyers the perfect portrait of a safe, secure, and impeccably well-planned subdivision offering. Also incorporated at the property are shuttle services going to and from the town, responsible and efficient Village Service personnel, quality telecommunications and utility facilities, 24-hour detailed and roving security, an on-call doctor at the Clubhouse, and even Sunday Mass services. All these amenities in a complete package no other developer in the Philippines could offer.

So why not try out CrestaGrande Resort Community and find out for yourself, whether you are retiring or simply wanting a place to stay whenever you're visiting the country. There, see for yourself the promise of a totally relaxing and serene environment, CrestaGrande-style.

It is where time almost literally stops as you enjoy all its amenities, but who needs time anyway? At CrestaGrande, all you need to do is just relax and enjoy the beauty and benefits of life.

Interested parties may contact Cala Paniman Inc, the CrestaGrande developer, at its representative office in the Philippines, located at Suite 21-N, Burgundy Corporate Tower, 252 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City, at (632) 843- 1550, or via fax at (632) 843-1525, or email at sales@crestagrande.com or visit their Web site at www.crestagrande.com. or visit their Web site at www.crestagrande.com.



**SMART SELECTS FREQUENCY RANGE FOR 3G DEPLOYMENT**
Smart Communications Inc recently selected the 1920-1935MHz/2110-2125MHz frequency range for the nationwide rollout of its 3G network. This frequency has the least amount of interference, allowing for the clearest possible over-the-air transmission. Smart was awarded the privilege of selecting its preferred frequency band first among all 3G license recipients after the National Telecommunications Commission gave the firm a perfect score of 30-the only applicant to receive that rating-in the grading system to determine network-readiness to provide widespread 3G services effectively. Shown during the selection held at the NTC office are (from left) lawyer Enrico Espanol, head, Smart legal department, Jorge Sarmiento, NTC Deputy Commissioner, lawyer Ivy Plaza-Cortez, manager, Smart legal department, Mar Tamayo, head, Smart network planning and engineering, Ronald Olivar, NTC Commissioner, and Jaime Fortes Jr, NTC Deputy Commissioner.

## ProductFILES

# Enjoy summer with Bose

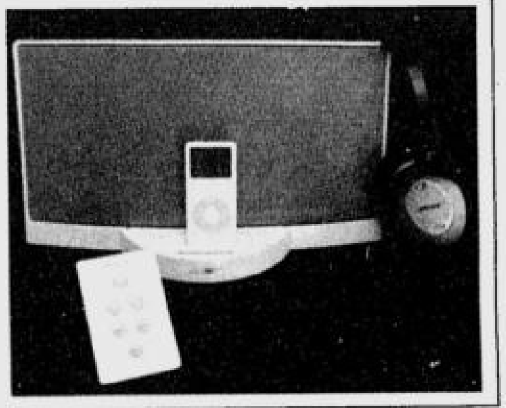
DESPITE THE COMPETITION POSED BY other iPod portable music players in the domestic market, the Bose Sound Dock remains as the number one iPod compatible mobile music player. The Sound Dock has changed the way people listen to music.

Millions of iPod owners worldwide use their players to listen to their music collections wherever they go. Now that the summer season is upon us, expect more consumers to buy iPods as they hit the resorts and sandy beaches.

The SoundDock digital music system is a powered acoustic package with a remote control and an iPod docking cradle. Simply insert the iPod into the cradle and experience a new level in digital music. The SoundDock system's sleek appearance blends with the iPod and almost any décor. Its slim profile and small footprint allow placement in kitchens, bedrooms, offices, dorm rooms and even at the beach while having fun in the sun.

The SoundDock system's appearance complements its ease of use. An infrared remote control enables the user to control the system and the iPod from almost anywhere in the room. With the docking cradle, there's no need for special adapters or stereo cables and it also acts as a charger for your iPod. "The SoundDock system enhances the performance of both the iPod and the Nano iPod. Music lovers will surely be impressed by the quality of sound provided by such a small package," states Wilson So, president and GM of Eleksis Marketing Corp, exclusive distributors of Bose entertainment systems.

The SoundDock is available in audio and appliance centers nationwide. For inquiries on how to experience a new level of Digital music, call 724-9566/898-2048, or log on to www.eleksis.com and visit Bose showrooms at the SM Megamall, PowerPlant Mall in Rockwell Center, Robinsons Ermita, 3rd floor of Glorietta 3, Ayala Center, Makati, Alabang Town Center and soon to open at the SM Mall of Asia.



## BITS Clips

### Isuzu to hold series of 'Fiestacular' family days

WITH A FORMIDABLE LINEUP OF EXCEPTIONAL family vehicles - the Alterra, the Crosswind, and the D-Max - Isuzu Philippines Corp believes it is only fitting to pay tribute to the most important group of people in its business. From March to July, IPC is bringing the "Fiestacular Isuzu Family Day" to each of its authorized dealerships across the nation, with the aim of reaffirming its corporate commitment to all of its customers and their loved ones. Isuzu has proven time and again that it is a conscientious vehicle maker that cares more about its customers. This year, Isuzu's family day - a first in the local auto industry - is even bigger and better, with more exciting components and activities. The "Fiestacular Isuzu Family Day" was held at Isuzu Alabang and Isuzu Makati March 18; Isuzu Manila and Isuzu Quezon Avenue on March 25. Other "Fiestacular" days will be in Isuzu Pasig and Isuzu Edsa on April 8; Isuzu Commonwealth and Isuzu Bulacan on April 22; Isuzu Bacolod on May 6; Isuzu Dagupan and Isuzu Cavite on May 20; Isuzu Cabanatuan and Isuzu Isabela on May 27; Isuzu Batangas and Isuzu San Pablo on June 3; Isuzu Mandaue and Isuzu Pampanga on June 10; Isuzu Cagayan de Oro on June 24; and Isuzu Davao on July 1.

### Dr. P makes summer fun

THE HEAT IS ON, AND SO ARE SUMMER SPOILERS such as incontinence, can ruin fun times with grandma and grandpa. They can become uncomfortable, itchy and grouchy under the sun's scorching rays. That's why Dr. P Adult Diapers is the perfect summer companion for our elderly loved ones. Dr. P lifts their spirits with soft and absorbent pads that keep them cool and comfortable. It has Anti-Bacteria action that prevents growth of harmful germs. It also has High Speed Channels that evenly distribute liquid across the pad so it does not stay in one place. Plus! Its Wetness Indicator will signal the right time to change diaper. Now our love-ones are spared from embarrassing situations, while enjoying the Dr. P Adult Diaper's tender loving care. Dr. P is available at selected leading supermarkets, groceries and drugstores nationwide. Another quality product distributed by JS Unitrade Merchandise Inc.

### EQ Dry summer promo

BECAUSE EQ DRY KNOWS THAT SUMMER TIME is the best time for baby to travel, EQ Dry introduces its hottest summer promo - "EQ Dry Travel Buddies". Get free Travel Buddy Bags of your choice when you purchase any EQ Dry pack. Simply collect the points found in each pack and send the empty diaper packs to "EQ Dry Travel Buddies", JS Unitrade Merchandise Inc, 31st Floor Raffles Corporate Center, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. EQ Dry Diapers are available at all leading supermarkets nationwide. For more details on the EQ Travel Buddies promo, please see posters, flyers and print ads for details or visit www.jsunitrade.com.

### DOT joins Marine Diving Fair

THE GOVERNMENT CAMPAIGN TO EXPAND THE capacity of the country's tourism infrastructure is taking the fast lane, with two bigger domestic airports of international standards being built in Western Visayas and an additional 1,000 rooms on Boracay Island. Tourism Secretary Joseph Ace H. Durano said these projects would be completed for opening next year to meet the country's growing number of foreign and domestic tourists. For this year, the Department of Tourism (DOT) is aptly targeting 3 million foreign arrivals on the way to its 2010 goal of 5 million. Known for its stunning white sand beach and calm waters that lure tourists from all over the world, Boracay is also emerging as a diver's paradise because of the first-class dive sites surrounding the island. The world's huge divers market includes Japan's 2 million dive enthusiasts, which the DOT is targeting. In pursuit of that market, the DOT and its strategic partners - Philippine Tourism Authority and Philippine Airlines - are participating in the Marine Diving Fair (MDF) at the Sunshine City Convention Center in Ikebukuro, Tokyo from April 7 to 9. DOT has received strong private sector support in joining the MDF. This includes the participation of Scubaworld, Amanpulo and Wind and Wave Davao, as well as Tokyo-based Pacific Cebu Resorts and Japan-Philippines Tourism Council.

### Pro-kids summer

PROKIDS PREMIUM DIAPERS ARE KIDS' (AND mommies') best friend on hot sunny summer days. Prokids diapers come with a fast absorbing core and ADL that keep babies dry and comfortable, even in the middle of the beach under the hot sun. A wetness indicator also signals time for changing. And its soft-foam waistband and magic tapes provide a firm fit that will keep kids smiling all summer long. Exclusively distributed by JS Unitrade Merchandise Inc, a company of First SLP Holdings Inc, Pro-kids is available at all leading supermarkets, groceries, and drugstores nationwide.

# Franchising a fairytale

BACK IN 1991, GOLDILOCKS launched its franchising program, with the hope of offering Filipino entrepreneurs a reliable and lucrative business within their reach. It turned out to be a dramatic success: currently, franchises account for nearly two-thirds of the 193 Goldilocks stores nationwide, and the number of new applicants continue to grow. Just this year, they were inducted to the Hall of Fame of the prestigious Philippine Franchise Association during its annual Franchise Excellence Awards.

Lin Deres, franchise relations manager of Goldilocks, explained the underlying reason why Franchising has become a standout in local industry. "Basically, franchising is taking a proven success story and multiplying it", she said. "With so many challenges facing the entrepreneur, franchising takes most of the guesswork out of the equation. You are given a tried and tested business model, with a strong brand identity and track record", Lin added.

From a business standpoint, the advantages are clear. Using Goldilocks as an example, the learning curve of franchisees is practically zero. "We give them a full and systematic support system to rely on, as well as an area consultant to constantly monitor and guide their progress", Lin explained. "Franchising relies on a uniform and highly consistent business model, so everyone remains on the same page", she further noted.

Lin's first priority when meeting a potential franchisee is to discuss the finer points of the business with them. "At Goldilocks, we consider franchisees not only as partners, but members of a growing family", she said. "I use a simple interaction I call the Three Why's (or 3Y) to get to know more about their expectations and motivations. At the same time, I am able to introduce them to the values and standards of Goldilocks." Lin then enumerated the Three Why's: "Why Franchising? Why Food? and finally, Why Goldilocks?"

Lin recalls with mild amusement the common answer given to this question. "People think that Franchising takes all the hardship out of starting a business. I remember someone even saying that it's the only business model that rewards you for being a copycat", she shared. "In a way, of course, they are correct. Franchising greatly reduces the risk of starting your own business". But Lin is quick to dismiss the notion that owning a Franchise is easy work: "For Goldilocks, we make sure that our franchisees are hands-on managers who have genuine concern and involvement in the business. These are individuals who fully participate in the growth of the Goldilocks family", she added.

Based on her experience, Lin finds that the answer to this question is almost unanimous. "Food is the most basic of necessities", she said matter-of-factly. Unlike other goods or services, however, owning a food franchise involves unique challenges. "Our quality control standards must be met by our franchisees to the letter. No exceptions, no compromise", Lin emphasized.

"I feel a strong sense of pride whenever potential franchisees explain their reason for choosing Goldilocks", Lin declared. "Some of them go to great lengths, telling family stories, recalling childhood memories, describing an unforgettable birthday cake. It's a constant reminder for me how much this company has touched the lives of Filipinos, and how much a part of our Pinoy culture Goldilocks has become", she intimated.

Others balance their sentimental side with a more logical approach. "Franchisees have repeatedly mentioned that they chose Goldilocks because it transcends class barriers and income brackets. Because of this, their business attracts all markets", Lin said. "Still, others have pointed out that our franchise fees are quite reasonable, considering our long operational history and brand value. Moreover, we offer the flexibility to select a bakeshop or a full store (bakeshop and food shop) to our franchisees. Many see this as two businesses in one", she further explained.

UCPB Savings

UCPB SAVINGS BANK, INC.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING
OF STOCKHOLDERS

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meetings of the Stockholders of the UCPB Savings Bank, Inc. will be held on 21 April 2006, 4:00 pm at the Board Room, 15th Floor, UCPB Building, Makati Avenue, Makati City.

The Agenda of the meeting is as follows:

I. Call to Order
II. Proof of Notice of Meeting
III. Certification of Quorum
  a) Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Stockholders Meeting held on March 02, 2004
  b) Approval of the Minutes of the Special Stockholders Meeting held on April 25, 2005
IV. President's Annual Report
V. Approval of the Audited Financial Statements
VI. Ratification of Acts of the Board of Directors and Corporate Officers
VII. Election of the Members of the Board of Directors
VIII. Other Matters
IX. Adjournment

(Sgd.) Atty. JOSE A. BARCELON
Corporate Secretary

(PDI–April 7, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
SEC Building, EDSA, East Greenhills
Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila
Tel: (632) 725-0930 to 39 Website: www.sec.gov.ph

NOTICE

The Commission is soliciting comments from market participants and the public on the proposed **RULES ON SECURITIES BORROWING AND LENDING (SBL)**, now posted in the SEC website (What's New/For Public Comment).

It is suggested that the comments shall refer to specific section of the draft Rules and a proposal shall be in a rule form with justification.

Please submit your written comments to Director Jose P. Aquino, Market Regulation Department, 6th Floor, SEC Building, EDSA, Greenhills, Mandaluyong City, not later than April 21, 2006. You may also submit your comments electronically through this e-mail address: mrd@sec.gov.ph.

We anticipate you shall take full advantage of this opportunity to express your views.

(PDI–April 7, 2006)

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**PLEASE SEND BIO-DATA WITH COLOR PICTURE 2" x 2" TO MAKATI CENTRAL POST OFFICE BOX NO. 2719, MAKATI CITY 1267 ON OR BEFORE FRIDAY, APRIL 14, 2006.**

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
FIRST JUDICIAL REGION
BRANCH 17, BATAC, ILOCOS NORTE

IN RE: PETITION OF NULLITY OF MARRIAGE BETWEEN LUISITO S. AGABAN AND ELIZA S. DOMINGO.
ELISA S. DOMINGO-HASTIE
represented by her attorney-in-fact
LUCENA CALAMAYAN,
Petitioner,

SP. PROC. No. 4638-17

– versus –

LUISITO AGABAN AND THE CIVIL REGISTRAR GENERAL,
Respondents.
x - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - x

### SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

WHEREAS, as per Order dated March 14, 2006, it was directed that summons be served by publication pursuant to Section 15, Rule 14 of the 1997 Rules of Civil Procedure:

WHEREAS, the Material allegations of the complaint are as follows:

1. The petitioner is of legal age, presently married, American citizen and a permanent resident of Bethel, Alaska and temporarily residing in Batac, Ilocos Norte and who may be served with summons and other processes through her attorney-in-fact Lucena Calamayan at the Congressional Office of Congressman Roque R. Abalan, Ilocano Heroes Hall, Laoag City, Philippines: Respondent Luisito Agaban was known to be a native and resident of D. Silang Street, Batangas City and Bayanan I, Calapan, Oriental Mindoro where he may be served with summons and other processes of the Honorable Court while the Civil Registrar General may be served with the same at the National Statistics Office, Manila;
2. The petitioner was formerly a Filipino citizen who had worked in Singapore for sometime in the early and mid 1990's;
3. That while working in Singapore, petitioner met Luisito Agaban, a Filipino, and believing that the latter was single, she agreed to marry him on 27 January 1995 at the Philippine Embassy in Singapore;
4. That after her marriage with Luisito, they were blessed with one child, Luiza May Agaban and after that, Luisito also went to work abroad and she has not heard of him since then;
5. That petitioner then went to the United States of America, leaving her child Luiza Agaban to her relatives in the Philippines;
6. That while in the United States and believing that her husband Luisito was already dead, she married Sergeant First Class John L. Hastie II of the U.S. Army who is now retired and with whom she also has a child named Carson Francis Domingo Hastie;
7. That because petitioner wanted her child Luiza May Agaban and another biological child of hers to join her in the United States, she filed a petition for their migration with the United States Embassy sometime in May 2005 when she came to the Philippines for the purpose;
8. That unfortunately, her marriage with Luisito Agaban became a problem not only because she cannot be located but also because he was earlier married to a certain Myrna Rosales on June 19,1988 in Calapan, Mindoro as shown by the records of the National Statistics Office/Registrar General of the Philippines, a fact that herein petitioner did not know when she tied the knot with him in Singapore;
9. That in view of the said first marriage of Luisito Agaban to Myrna Rosales, petitioner was required to first ask for the declaration of the nullity of her marriage to him in order that the United States Embassy would favorably consider the petition she filed for the migration of her children;
10. That considering that petitioner has no other remedy and because she is now a permanent resident of the United States, she caused this petition to be filed through her friend and attorney-in-fact, Lucena Calamayan;

WHEREFORE, it is respectfully prayed of this Honorable Court that the foregoing petition be approved by declaring as null and void herein petitioner's marriage to Luisito Agaban and for other relief that may be warranted under the circumstances.

Laoag City, for Batac, Ilocos Norte, 14 November 2005.

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to Sec. 15 Rule 14 of the 1997 Rules of Civil Procedure, the herein defendant Luisito Agaban is hereby given sixty (60) days from the last publication of this Summons within which to answer the complaint. Summons should be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines at the expense of Petitioner Elisa S. Domingo Hastie.

WITNESS THE HONORABLE ANGELO M. ALBANO, Presiding Judge of the Regional Trial Court, Branch 17, Batac Ilocos Norte, Philippines, March 14, 2006.

(Sgd.) ATTY. ELIZABETH G. BRINGAS
Branch Clerk of Court V

(PDI – March 31 & April 7, 2006)

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## BANK ACQUIRED ASSET FOR SALE

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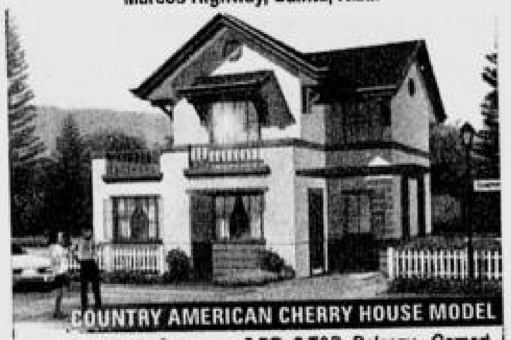

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Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION
LICENSE FOR PRIVATE RECRUITMENT AND PLACEMENT AGENCY

Authorized representative
Ma. Lourdes G. Punzalan

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*RD 10 Makati Creekside Mall*
*Amorsolo St., Legaspi Village*
*Makati City*

pursuant to the Labor Code and the Omnibus Rules Implementing the Code.

This license shall be valid for the period 20 March 2006 to 19 March 2008 unless sooner revoked, cancelled or suspended for violation of the Labor Code and related issuances. Transfer or use by any other person or entity tenders this license null and void.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Official Seal of National Capital Region, Department of Labor and Employment, to be affixed at the City of Manila, Philippines, this 7th day of March 2006.

(Sgd.) RICARDO S. MARTINEZ, SR., CESO III
Regional Director

*(Renewal of this license is thirty (30) days before expiration date)*

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**GOLDJUNCTION CORPORATION**
BUILDERS AND DEVELOPERS

**RE: Notice of Annual Stockholder's Meeting**

The annual stockholder's meeting shall be at the new office address at #37 Annapolis Street, 1109 Cubao, Quezon City at 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon on April 08, 2006 Saturday.
AGENDA: 1. Quorum; 2. Transfer at new address formally; 3. Sale of unpaid shares that were reserved since the organization of said corporation thru public bidding; 4. Other matters; 5. Adjournment.

In Quezon City, Metro Manila this March 20, 2006.

(Sgd.) MA. SAGRARIO M. MARIANO
Corporate Secretary
GOLDJUNCTION CORPORATION

(PDI–April 7, 2006)

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## CGMA classrooms built reach 400 mark

THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT (DOLE) said the total number of classrooms built under its Classroom Galing sa Mamamayan Abroad (CGMA) Program, which aims to alleviate classroom shortage, is steadily approaching the 400 mark nationwide. A report reaching Labor and Employment secretary Patricia A. Sto. Tomas indicated that a total of 312 CGMA classrooms have now been finished, while another 62 are in various stages of construction in several regions. Also, seven classrooms are undergoing school area identification, and 19 are undergoing site validation and documentation prior to construction. Undersecretary for Employment Danilo P. Cruz, Executive Head of the DOLE CGMA Program, reported that six new classrooms were recently inaugurated Cruz said the CGMA Program is a continuing global initiative of the DOLE in collaboration with the Departments of Education (DepEd), Foreign Affairs (DFA), and the Federation of Filipino Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Inc. (FFCCCII). "The CGMA classrooms donated by overseas Filipino communities, overseas Filipino workers and employers of OFWs, individual, corporate, and other magnanimous donors here and abroad are now benefiting thousands of elementary and high school students nationwide," he said.

# OBITUARIES

*We, the family of the late*

## *Atty. Lumen R. Policarpio*

*October 24, 1916 – March 30, 2006*

*Wish to thank you all who loved her so dearly and, with your prayers & selfless support, came together with us in celebrating her resureccion to her maker's side.*

*Parents: Simeon (†) & Modesta (†); Brothers and Sisters: Ricardo, Felizardo (†), Abelardo (†), Baby (†), Conde, Pepe (†) and Ruben and Dra. Teofie; Adopted Children Former PLLO Sec. Jimmie & Sheila Policarpio, Renee & Beth Policarpio, Gina Policarpio, Sisters and Brother-in-Law, Nephews & Nieces, and Grandchildren, Relatives and Friends and members of the Cathedral of King & Pink Sisters.*

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In Loving Memory of

## DR. ERNESTO Y. SIBAL

on the 29th anniversary of his death
April 7, 2006

MASSES OFFERED AT THE FOLLOWING CHURCHES:

| | |
|---|---|
| **Virgen dela Regla Parish Church**, Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu | 5:30 A.M. |
| **Mary the Queen Parish**, Greenhills, M. M. | 6:00 A.M. |
| **Our Lady of Loreto Parish**, Sampaloc, Manila | 6:00 A.M. |
| **Sanctuario de San Jose Greenhills**, Mandaluyong | 6:15 A.M. |
| **Sta. Cruz Parish**, Sta. Cruz, Manila | 6:15 A.M. |
| **Our Lady of Atonement-Baguio Cathedral**, Baguio City | 6:30 A.M. |
| **St. Joseph the Worker Parish**, Pacdal Circle, Baguio City | 6:30 A.M. |
| **Immaculate Conception Parish**, Baguio City | 6:30 A.M. |
| **Baclaran Church** | 6:45 A.M. |
| **St. Francis Parish Church**, Mandaluyong | 7:00 A.M. |
| **Sto. Domingo Church**, Quezon Avenue, Quezon City | 8:00 A.M. |
| **Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene**, Quiapo, Manila | 5:00 P.M. |
| **Our Lady of Mt. Carmel**, New Manila, Q.C. | 6:00 A.M., 7:00 A.M., and 6:00 P.M. |

*The family requests relatives, friends and pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.*

---

*In Loving Memory*
*on the 1st Death Anniversary*
*of our Most Dearly Beloved*

## "Dondi"
## AMADO A. ONG

*(September 13, 1952 – April 9, 2005)*

We cherish the love, devotion, support, understanding, and benevolence Dondi showered us, his family and friends whose lives he touched. We are grateful to you Lord for giving Dondi to us and allowing us to live and enjoy a meaningful life with him.

Dondi will always be in the hearts of **Mila** (wife), **Ami Camille** and **Ann Charisse** (daughters), **Sonny, Tiss, Gigi, Jo, Nato, Minn, Jul, Ed** (brothers and sisters), brothers and sisters-in-law, nephews and nieces, **Ate Luisa** and **Ate Caring** (aunts) and **Catalina** (mother-in-law)

A Special Mass will be held on **April 8, 2006** at St. Martin de Porres Church, United Hills Village, Parañaque City at 11:00 a.m.

---

## ROSE AQUITANIA ASUNCION

of San Diego, California, USA
and born in Rosario, La Union, Philippines on March 01, 1924
peacefully joined her Lord and Creator on April 3, 2006.

Her bereaved husband, **George**; children **Rose** and **John Sheppard**, **Cynthia** and **Caesar Domingo**, **Shiony** and **Jesse Binamira**, **Joji Monsod, Boots** and **Trennie Monsod**, **Joey** and **Bing Asuncion** and **Patrick Asuncion**; grandchildren **Travis, Ria, Troy, Trina, Jervin, Jois, Jaimee, Trevor, Joan, Tracy, Kuki, Tricia, David** and **Jostin**; and great grandson **Tristan** request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

She will be cremated in the US this April 07 and her ashes will be brought home this month. Her wake will be on April 19 and 20 at a place to be announced by the family.

Interment will be on Friday, April 21, 2006
at the Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina City.

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"Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28

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More Classified Ads on pages A24, A25, B6 & B2-4

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*"I am the way, the truth, and the life.*
*No one comes to the Father except through me"*
Jesus Christ Jn. 14:6

## CORAZON PEREZ GARCIA
## (Sister Cora)

*who passed away on April 4, 2006 at the age of 82.*

Her remains lie in state at the Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be tomorrow morning, April 8, 2006 at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City.

---

"...absent from the body to be present with the Lord." 2 Corinthians 5:8

# P3.2-billion Panglao airport moves forward

By Daxim L. Lucas

THE PLAN TO CONSTRUCT AN INTERnational airport on Panglao Island in Bohol province is one step closer to being realized after the transportation department began a formal study on the project's feasibility.

Speaking to reporters recently, Transportation and Communications Sec. Leandro Mendoza said his office was now looking at the project's particulars, including the kind of aircraft that would likely service air routes to the resort island.

"It should be able to accommodate at least a [Boeing] 737," he said.

A 737 is a twin-engined jet airliner used by carriers to service regional routes.

Capable of carrying up to 200 passengers, depending on its seating configuration, a 737 needs at least 2,000 feet of concrete or asphalt runway for take-offs and landings.

The government needs an estimated P3.2 billion for the proposed Panglao International Airport, which is being touted as an alternative to the nearby Tagbilaran City airport.

Mendoza said the proposed Panglao airport will help boost tourism in the island, which is being marketed by the government as one of the country's top tourism destinations, just behind Boracay island.

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For instance, the minimum down payment required by the suggested retail price is 20%, or Php 203,800; the rest is payable at Php 28,000+ a month. If a shuttle service makes four trips and earns about Php 2,460 in a day, then the monthly amortization could be covered in less than two weeks!

To start a business is to take a step closer towards stability. The best part is that with "Ur Van, Ur Business," you will also have the opportunity to help more people see a better future. UMC has committed to donate Php 1,000 to the Center for Community Transformation Credit Cooperative for every Nissan Urvan sold under the program.

Planning a more financially secure life is everybody's business. Head to your nearest Nissan dealer now to find out more about owning the Nissan Urvan Escapade and what "Umasenso sa Urvan" really means.

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# To A Million and Beyond

## MCC Gets PLDT-Enabled

Metrobank Card Corporation (MCC) is aiming for the best service in town. Hot on the heels of larger more established players, the MCC team has got their game plan mapped out, and it all revolves around better customer service.

How to serve more customers at higher quality levels? MCC invested in PLDT's world-class infrastructure and expertise for their contact center. The cost effectiveness of PLDT's outsourced contact center using the OnCall solution versus MCC's existing platform was a key factor, "along with that of course was PLDT's well-deserved reputation for its stability, and its ability to execute immediately" MCC President Anne Marie Young tells us.

Young has the winning and open manner characteristic of truly successful top executives. She is self-effacing and humble in spite of her position which without a doubt took a keen mind to reach.

"Our old contact center platform just couldn't handle it," she adds, referring to growing customer loads, "And so PLDT went all-out towards system implementation. There was no customer interruption."

According to Young, MCC aims to "answer and solve all calls" to gain a reputation for solid customer service. Today they can handle anywhere between 3,000 and 4,000 calls a day for both Metrobank and PSBank Credit Card Customers.

In the case of MCC, better customer service means a robust, consistent quality of service. MCC First Vice President Murray James seems to be the right man to speak about this. Murray has just arrived from ANZ, Australia where he specialized in top class Customer Service Management.

"We aim to effectively handle every aspect of a cardholder's service need: balance inquiries, card delivery, teleservice, statements, rewards, mobile banking, even bills payment," he tells us. "For the customer, we want to be their end-to-end credit card service."

"We want to be the International Card Company that knows the Philippines best," adds Young, "We are overlaying the ANZ expertise (MCC is a Metrobank and ANZ joint-venture) towards tapping a clearly emerging Philippine market." That emerging market could eventually yield a million MCC customers.

Although Young and James definitely know the card business, they'd like to know the Philippines better. For that, they turn to their Filipino experts, Mikal Rallonza, Vice President and Head of Operations for MCC. One of the things Rallonza knew about was PLDT's expertise.

"PLDT went out of their way, aggressively. They delivered on time, on schedule and coordinated with their partners on an end-to-end solution," Rallonza says.

Metrobank Card Corporation (MCC) President Anne Marie Young

He adds, "It is not just about providing a solution but more so about being able to deliver crucial results to the back-end. They make sure to set the foundation to an open line of communication so that any potential issue is immediately resolved. PLDT was consistent in understanding our system and the high level of expertise is always present."

In a matter of a few months, MCC is drastically expanding their number of seats in order to cope with the rapid growth of their clientele. They are not only expanding the basic contact center platform, but are also working with PLDT for more sophisticated solutions, raising the bar for customer service.

"We really aimed to give MCC the best custom-fitted system to handle their growing call loads," says PLDT AVP and Sales Business Head Kat Luna, "Modern contact center demands are always growing, always expanding. It's important to give the client a scalable, flexible system to best serve their customers."

PLDT Senior Vice President for the Corporate Business Group Eric R. Alberto said "PLDT always goes the extra mile for our corporate customers. We give them the leading innovations, scalability and security they need for continued growth in response to their burgeoning markets."

**In photo seated (from L-R) are: Katrina Luna-Abelarde, PLDT AVP and Sales Business Head; Ernesto Alberto, PLDT SVP and Head of Corporate Business Group; Anne Marie Young, Metrobank Card President; Rene De Borja, Metrobank Card Chief Financial Officer. Standing (from L-R) are: Stephanie Ong, PLDT Sr. Relationship Manager; Cesar Enriquez, PLDT FVP and Corporate Business Operations Officer; Murray James, Metrobank Card FVP for Customer Service and Operations; Mikal Rallonza, Metrobank Card VP for Operations and Paul Palma, Metrobank Card AVP for Shared Services.**

> **"We want to be the International Card Company that knows the Philippines best..."**

PLDT Senior Relationship Manager Stephanie Ong reaffirmed the PLDT commitment. "Right from the start we always made ourselves available for MCC. We will be there every step of the way as their business grows."

By Young's own account, "PLDT serviced us even during off-hours late at night. We appreciate that. We will be growing this partnership with them because of their ability for attentive service and seamless implementation."

E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph

## BUSINESS Friday

*Business Features Editor* **Margie Quimpo-Espino**

# Bigfoot brings Hollywood to Cebu

**THE ALMOST 2-hectare facility cost over $10 million.**

**By Irene R. Sino Cruz**
*Contributor, PDI Visayas Bureau*

CEBU CITY—KNOWN AS HOME to dried mango and boneless danggit, Cebu will soon emerge as a filmmaking hub in Asia with the presence of Bigfoot Entertainment's sound stage facilities.

Bigfoot Entertainment invested over $10 million (about P500 million) in its almost two-hectare facility in the resort island of Mactan.

The facility includes two sound stages, one, the first real soundproof sound stage in the Philippines costing $1.5 million and the second and bigger one valued at $615,000.

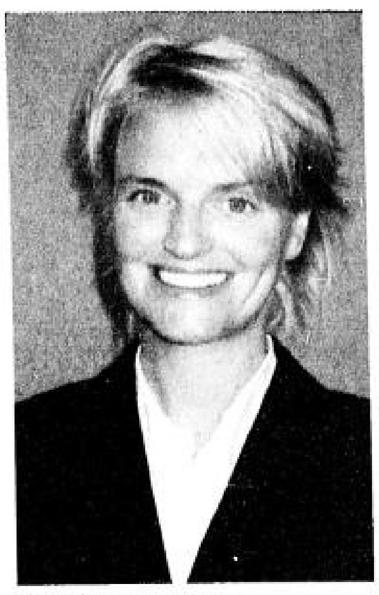
Bigfoot Entertainment chief executive officer Kacy Andrews says the presence of a real sound stage would enable Cebu to attract location film shoots.

"Hollywood is always looking for cheaper, interesting locations," Andrews says.

Places like Prague, New Zealand and Canada are among Hollywood's favored sites for location shooting, she says.

However, there is no reason why Cebu could not become an attractive location, where the

BIGFOOT/ B2



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# No skips or blots along the way for ball pen firm

**By Tina Arceo-Dumlao**

ONE WOULD HAVE THOUGHT IT would not take rocket science to figure out how to sell ball pens. After all, everybody needs at least one.

But there is a science to selling ball pens, as ball pen makers and distributors like Lupel Marketing know only too well.

Being an expert in the field is vital if the ball pen company is to survive in the business marked by white hot competition, which stepped up a notch following the influx of cheap pens from China.

In the case of Lupel, exclusive distributor of Uni ball pens in the Philippines, the secret to staying alive in the business lies in forging strong ties with the line distributors who bring the pens to the consumers.

Lupel chief executive officer Luis S. Pellicer III says that developing relationships with agents, wholesalers, retail accounts start with having a mindset that they are more friends, rather than customers bringing in the cash.

He says members of senior management get to know the business challenges facing their agents in different parts of the country, to see how they can together build a business.

"We don't think about how to squeeze our customers and see them as just a channel of distribution," Pellicer says, "Rather, we look for that win-win situation."

LUIS PELLICER III with his staff

Lupel, for instance, invests in promotional activities nationwide to spur sales. Lupel people go around stores offering special prices and items, such as dispensers. No skips or blots along the way.

For the distributors, Lupel provides a one-year guarantee, which means that the pens will still write or perform the same way a year after manufacturing.

This is due to the quality of ink in the ball pens, under the standards set by Lupel's Japanese partner, Mitsubishi Pencil Co., which at 120 years old is the oldest ball pen firm in Japan.

"When we succeed in penetrating the market, we turn around and tell them that for additional orders, they should go to our wholesalers or agents in the area," Pellicer says. "In that way we both build the business."

These relationships were built over the 35 years that Lupel has been producing the pens from its factory in Parañaque, one of a handful of companies that have remained in the ball pen manufacturing business.

Makers of other brands, such as Reynolds and Bic, have long left the Philippines either due to labor problems or financial difficulties.

Pellicer says success in the end boils down to the kind of product being produced.

The company may have the best manufacturing facility and distribution network, but if the product does not live up to its hype, the consumers will realize it and shift to other products.

Uni pens cost about 50 centavos more than the higher-end of the pens from China.

It is tempting, though, to scrimp, cut costs and cut corners in the production for extra profit because there are too many pens of inferior quality proliferating in the market and eating into Lupel's share.

Pellicer is confident, however, that the market would eventually figure out for themselves which pens are worth their money.

"What you gain in price, you definitely lose in quality with other pens," he says.

Quality for Uni means the pens will be able to write a line around 2 kilometers long, beyond the industry average of 1.5 kilometers.

---

# Bigfoot brings...

From page B2-1

dollars go further, Andrews adds.

While having filmmakers doing shoots in Cebu would bring it prestige, what is more significant is financial impact on the community. "Filmmaking will bring a lot of wealth to the community. For every dollar spent on the film, $10 is spent in the community. If the film costs $1 million, $10 million are poured into the community," Andrews points out.

Film productions will create jobs and boost businesses, such as those involved in food catering, transportation and accommodations, she says.

"We will buy props, wardrobe clothing and others," Andrews says.

The jobs would be varied and would require various skills on top of actual production work.

"Each position requires different skills, such as prop person, costume designer, editor, cameraman, cinematographer and hair and makeup assistants," she says.

Cebu will have a taste of how film productions would boost the local economy later this year when Bigfoot starts production of a film.

"We have a couple of different films written for Cebu. We are hoping to bring out international actors. We will also be hiring some local talents, either from Manila or from Cebu," Andrews says.

With the upcoming production, Bigfoot will be hiring between 40 to 60 local people, she says.

Bigfoot Entertainment has financed the production of some films, such as "3 Needles," which stars Lucy Liu of the "Charlie's Angels" franchise, and "The Curiosity of Chance."

It also produced television programs such as the "USS Cooper: Return to Ormoc Bay," a documentary on the sinking of an American battleship that was torpedoed during World War II, "Nautical Angels" and Diving Asia Cebu, which showcases the finest dive spots here.

Bigfoot has come a long way from 2001 when Singapore-based businessman Michael Gleissner first visited Cebu.

Gleissner came to Cebu on a business trip, and what was intended to be a quick stop in Cebu turned into weeks. Impressed by the warmth and hospitality of the Cebuano people, Gleissner said earlier that he ended up establishing a small office for Bigfoot Communications, which now employs more than 500 people.

Bigfoot today is involved in developing a critical manpower base with filmmaking skills to support its operations.

Because of this, Bigfoot's film school, the International Academy of Film and Television (IAFT), plays a major role in developing Cebu as a filmmaking capital.

IAFT, which has been offering short courses on filmmaking, launched early this year its one-year immersion program, targeting both foreign and local students.

Foreign students pay $8,000 while local students pay $5,000 for the one-year course, Andrews says. These rates are cheaper than the $25,000 to $30,000 charged by film schools in the United States for similar programs, she adds.

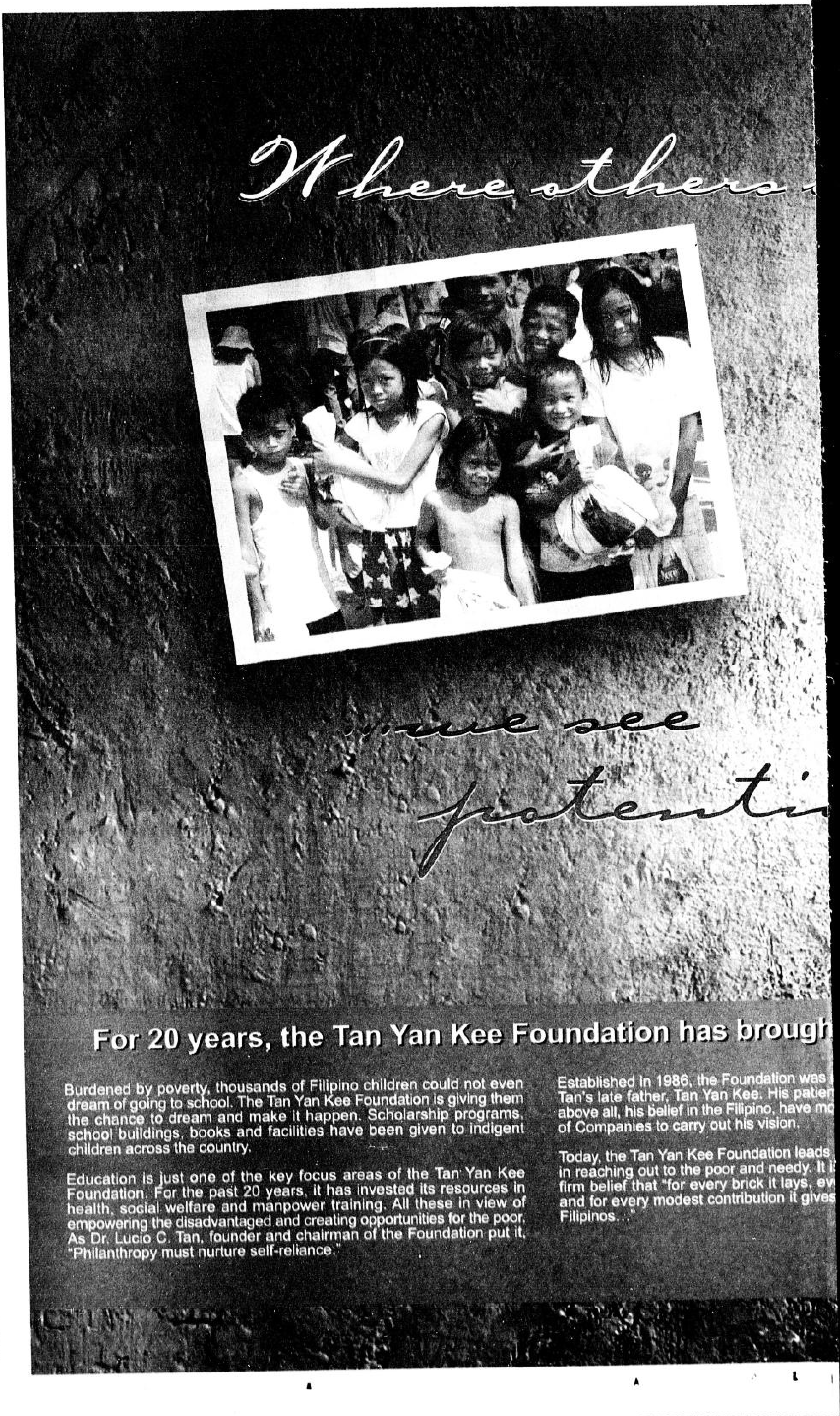
To develop local talents, IAFT established a scholarship fund for deserving students. The three scholarship programs financed by the fund are CineLikha Young Filmmaker Scholarship, and two merit-based awards, IAFT Lumiere Fellowship and Emergent Artists Award. The awards will be granted based on the student's annual income CineLikha scholarship or prior creative history and demonstrated potential for the merit-based awards.

The film school's one-year immersion program accepts new students every two months. It can accommodate a maximum of 150 students.

Although construction work is still being done on the second sound stage, the company is already planning to expand this time to the South Road Properties, a reclaimed area owned by the Cebu City government.

Bigfoot Entertainment says its expansion plans, estimated to cost around $10 million, include five sound stages and a tank for underwater photography. The company also plans to spend another $2 million on new production equipment.

On the other hand, Bigfoot Entertainment's acquisition of the master franchise for Fashion TV (FTV) in Singapore and the Philippines will provide exposure to local designers and models since it will be producing content for FTV starting this year.



For 20 years, the Tan Yan Kee Foundation has brough

Burdened by poverty, thousands of Filipino children could not even dream of going to school. The Tan Yan Kee Foundation is giving them the chance to dream and make it happen. Scholarship programs, school buildings, books and facilities have been given to indigent children across the country.

Education is just one of the key focus areas of the Tan Yan Kee Foundation. For the past 20 years, it has invested its resources in health, social welfare and manpower training. All these in view of empowering the disadvantaged and creating opportunities for the poor. As Dr. Lucio C. Tan, founder and chairman of the Foundation put it, "Philanthropy must nurture self-reliance."

Established in 1986, the Foundation was
Tan's late father, Tan Yan Kee. His patie
above all, his belief in the Filipino, have m
of Companies to carry out his vision.

Today, the Tan Yan Kee Foundation leads
in reaching out to the poor and needy. It i
firm belief that "for every brick it lays, ev
and for every modest contribution it gives
Filipinos..."

# Discovering the male market for leather goods

IT TOOK two years before the shop could set up its own boutique at The Podium.

THE BRAND CLAIMS IT FALLS somewhere between a Louis Vuitton and a Coach.

Its most saleable items are those priced between P7,000 and P15,000 for bags, both for men and women; and for wallets, between P3,000 and P5,000.

Initially, it tapped the lady's market but slowly saw sales of men's items catching up quickly such that today nearly half of its sales already come from males.

The leather brand Braun Büffel (pronounced as brown byu-fel) was set up in 1887 by Johann Braun in Kirn, Germany. Today it produces leather goods and accessories.

Montegani Inc. brought the brand to Manila in 2000. Select items were sold at the Leather Gallery, Robinsons Place Ermita. It took two years before a boutique could be opened at The Podium in Ortigas in February 2002.

Marketing consultant Michelle Lim says the target market of Braun Büffel are 20 to 40 year olds, predominantly female in the A,B, and upper C market.

However Lim points out because there are limited brands for men in the leather accessory segment, Braun has fast gained a market among males. At the same time with the increased brand recognition among females, they started buying the same brand for their males.

Lim explains that while the number of collections—70/30 in favor of ladies, men's products have higher quantity per item than the ladies'.

"More women buy for their men," she says.

The soft leather sells more than the hard one because Lim explains "the market perception is this is *balat na balat* (pure leather). Soft cowhide materials are perceived to be of higher quality, more genuine. All materials are made of genuine cowhide, but the exterior finish is made different to achieve unique textures and patterns."

Lim says initially they had a hard time penetrating the market because the brand was not as popular in the Philippines as in other countries.

But as soon as the market accepted the brand, they patronized it.

"We studied the market and saw that the Philippines is not as price conscious as much as it is brand conscious," she says.

Braun Büffel outlets are in Eastwood Citywalk 2, and select collections in Rustan's Makati and Shangri-la, and SM Makati. *Margie Quimpo-Espino*

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# How to . . .

From page B2-4

each day.

Never stop believing in yourself and your dreams. Because when you're young, and beginning your career, a lot of people will tell you the impossibilities and the failures that can happen in your life. But I tell you this; nothing is more tragic in life than a man who never even bothers to try. In marketing, we are constantly challenged to innovate to meet the needs of the consumers. We may often risk failure and face ridicule in the process, but I tell you that it is worth the risk, it is worth to try."

## Consumer development

Anson S. Dichaves, Regional Customer Development Training Director for Unilever Asia. YMMA Awardee for Consumer Products-Customer Development.

Through the implementation of his brainchild, the Shopper Marketing Program, Anson Dichaves reinvented the supplier-retailer relationship through partnership-selling and created an experiential shopping environment for consumers. In 2001, he developed the Store Layout Management system that streamlined the allocation of category space in retail areas. The result was a 56 percent increase in store run rates. This earned for Unilever the 2001 Supplier of the Year Award. In 2003, Dichaves took part in the conceptualization of Solution Centers. This move introduced beauty consultations for the Health and Beauty Solution Centers of Unilever and gave the company the 2003 Supplier of the Year Award.

In 2004, Unilever won the best Efficient Customer Response (ECR) project for Category Management and was named Overall Winner of ECR in Asia through Dichaves' successful establishment of an integrated marketing program at the store level. Utilizing technology, this program used direct marketing activities that contributed a 10 percent increase in in-store traffic and 17 percent growth in store sales.

Now an expat in Unilever Singapore, Dichaves e-mailed us these words of wisdom:

"Here's my BCDE advice on how to build a successful career in sales and marketing:

B- BRAND yourself. The most important brand you manage is the brand YOU. Who are you as a brand? What is the top of mind word or adjective that will be associated with you? Is it brilliant, dependable or is it lazy or slow. Make a list of the attributes you want to be associated with and make an effort to work on them. In no time you'll see how your market value will improve.

C- Find the right COACH. Your competencies and skills will be greatly accelerated once you find the right coach for you. Your most likely coach when you start working would be your boss. If you have a choice between a good boss and a good salary, always take the good boss even if it pays lower. A good boss will show you how to be successful at work. (I am lucky to have had worked with some of the greatest business minds in Unilever both here and abroad.)

D- Make a DIFFERENCE. In marketing or sales, your sincere mission to make a difference in your customer's life creates the special bond between you and your customers. Apply the difference principle as well at work—Will the assignment handed to you be better or worse? Will the people who will work for you improve their performance or be de-motivated? In the end, this is how your value or contribution will be visible to your boss and company.

E- Be known for EXECUTION. Execution simply means getting things done. Though it may sound simple, very few people know how to start and finish things effectively. For me, marketing is all about ... delivering the numbers. As you start your career, execution becomes a very strong foundation to move the top. In my experience a lot of people may go far by showing great concepts and presentations, but when you reach a certain level, without great execution capability, all things will crumble down fast.

## Services-entrepreneurship

Ricarte A. Gapuz, Jr., Founder, R.A. Gapuz Review Center. YMMA Awardee for Services-Entrepreneurship.

In 1994, two years after finishing his nursing degree from the University of Santo Tomas, Ricarte Gapuz put up R.A. Gapuz Review Center, Inc. (RAGRC), a firm dedicated to the development of nursing in the country. With his background as a certified nurse, coupled with insightful market research on the entry level competencies of its target segment, Ricarte led the development of an innovative nursing review program that significantly reduced the duration of nursing review from three months to ten days.

Currently, RAGRC is the industry leader with 45 percent market share for local nursing reviews and 49 percent for review on foreign nursing exams. Averaging at least 98 percent passing rate for RAGC reviewees as opposed to the 49 percent national rate. In 2005, RAGC was awarded the Superbrands becoming the only Nursing Review Center in the world with this seal.

Ricarte, through Gapuz Publications, authored five best-selling nursing review books that complement his vision of advancing the profession of nursing in the country. He also received various awards that recognize his achievements in entrepreneurship. These include the 2005 Agora Award for Entrepreneurship, a finalist in the 2004 Ernst and Young Entrepreneur of the Year Philippines.

*Keep your questions coming. Send them to us at MarketingRx@pldtDSL.net or text us at 0919-314-5412. God bless!*

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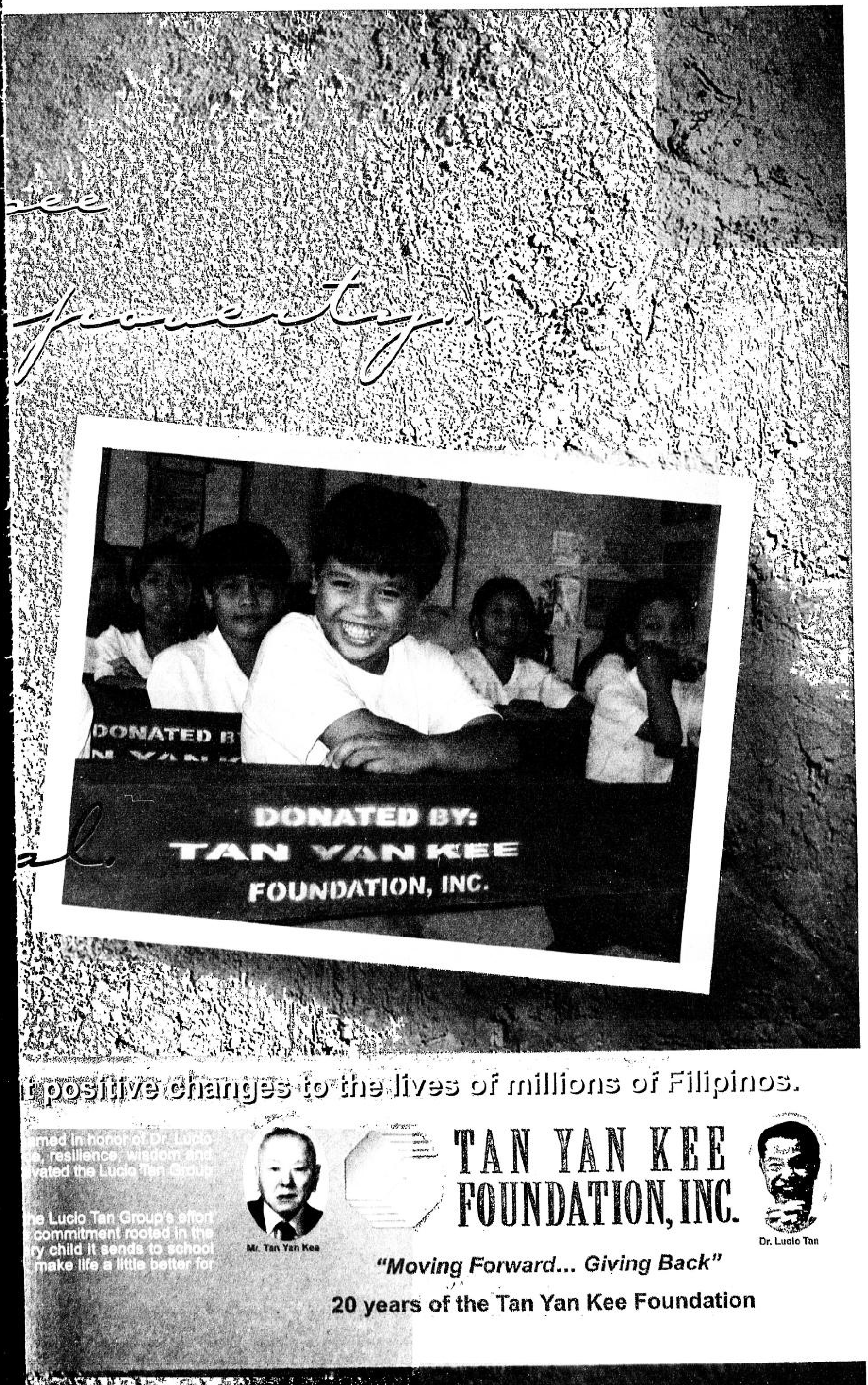
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TAN YAN KEE
FOUNDATION, INC.
positive changes to the lives of millions of Filipinos.
amed in honor of Dr. Lucio
e, resilience, wisdom and
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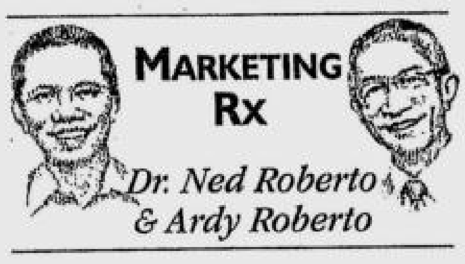
commitment rooted in the
ry child it sends to school
make life a little better for
Mr. Tan Yan Kee
TAN YAN KEE FOUNDATION, INC.
Dr. Lucio Tan
"Moving Forward... Giving Back"
20 years of the Tan Yan Kee Foundation

# How to be a young marketing master—lessons from the YMMA Awardees—I



MARKETING Rx

*Dr. Ned Roberto & Ardy Roberto*

Q: "I AM A FRESH GRADUATE AND I WANT to make my mark as a marketer, how do I start? Any advice or success secrets that you can share for aspiring young marketers like myself?"

A: It's always good to seek a benchmark for your goal. Seek out marketers who have done or are doing what you wish to achieve. Seek them out and ask them if you could meet with them and buy them lunch. (It will be worth the investment!) Pick their brains. Get to know them. Read the books that they've read, go to the seminars that they've attended, eat what they eat, walk like them, talk like them-get the idea? Sit at their feet, listen to their stories and take notes. Truly successful people love to share their knowledge and wisdom with anyone who has a real desire to succeed.

A couple of weeks ago, we were at the Young Market Masters Awards (YMMA) hosted and organized by Josiah Go (who was once the Philippine Marketing Association's youngest president as well as being a past TOYM awardee). Go founded the YMMA to inspire young marketers like you.

We're publishing the career paths and success stories of the six YMMA winners (all under 35 years old) so that you have role models and benchmarks.

## Brand management

Joseph Charles B. Cruel, Senior Product Manager for Beverage Marketing (C2 Green Tea), Universal Robina Corporation (URC). YMMA Awardee for Brand Management.

Cruel is largely responsible for the ubiquitousness of bottled ice-tea drinks in the Philippines. Cruel's brand genius is widely credited for the success of C2 Green Tea—touted as the most successful product launch in the history of URC. Within Cruel's three-year stint with URC he was able to generate 115 percent and 208 percent returns above targets for Refresh Flavored Drinks and C2 Green Tea, respectively. Responsible for the development of brand test systems in the company, Cruel also integrated channel marketing discipline into brand management. He conceptualized systems and procedures in covering on-premise accounts that led to the beverage line's 23 percent contribution to the total beverage Ready To Drink (RTD) category in less than a year, surpassing even the total coffee sales of URC.

Prior to joining URC, Cruel was Product Manager for strong brands across different Fast Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) categories such as Purefoods Hormel, RFM Swift and Remy Martin.

A product of the De La Salle University Graduate School of Business, Joseph is currently sharing his expertise in the field of marketing through teaching assignments in Don Bosco College and in his alma mater, Miriam College.

Here is Cruel's advice:

"If you decide to pursue a route in the corporate world, begin your career in sales. It will give you an idea of the total operation of the company and at the same time expose you to the consumer. Marketing will focus on consumer consumption points and your sales experience will give you the edge in the trade and business operations.

Love your work. I'm passionate with my work because I enjoy what I am doing. I treat each day as an opportunity to learn something new

HOW TO/ B2-3

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Republic of the Philippines
**PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION**
Citystate Centre, 709 Shaw Boulevard, Pasig City
Healthline 637-9999 www.philhealth.gov.ph

### INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
### No. 2006-010-g

### BIDDING FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF PHILHEALTH OFFICIAL RECEIPT (SPECIALIZED OFFICIAL RECEIPT IN CONTINUOUS FORM)

**The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth)**, through the Corporate Operating Budget (COB) 2006 intends to apply the sum of **PhP 6,400,000.00** being the approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Procurement of PhilHealth Official Receipt (Specialized Official Receipt in Continuous Form). Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

PhilHealth now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the said procurement with the following specifications:

**JOB TITLE** : Printing of 4,000,000 sets of PhilHealth Official Receipt (Specialized Receipt in Continuous Form)
**QUANTITY** : 4,000,000 sets / 1,000 boxes
**SIZE** : Vertical Length : 5 inch
Horizontal Length : 8 inch
**MATERIAL** : Colored Carbon-less PaperImpression must be clear up to the last ply
1st Ply - White Carbon-less paper (Payor's Copy)
2nd ply - Green Carbon-less paper (Finance Office's Copy)
3rd Ply - Pink Carbon-less paper (Cashier's Copy)
One color print for text (Black)
**PROCESS** : Typeset/Offset
**Serial numbers** : Pre-numbered (8 digits)
All numeric (Crash Numbering)
4,000,000 sets (10500001 - 14500000)
**Packaging** : Serial Numbers must be posted on two (2) opposite sides of the box.
1,000 sets/box
**Others** : PhilHealth logo printed in UV ink at the center
Micro print "PhilHealth" on top of the word *(Amount in words)*
**Delivery** :

| Schedule of Delivery | *PhilHealth Official Receipt* | | | Delivery Date |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Sets | Boxes | Series Nos. (From - To) | |
| 1st | 2,000,000 | 2,000 | 10500001 - 12500000 | 15 days after notice to proceed |
| 2nd | 2,000,000 | 2,000 | 12500001 - 14500000 | 15 days after the first delivery |

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino Citizens/Sole Proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino Citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 and subject to Commonwealth Act 138. Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such after the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the **Office of the Secretariat for the Bids and Awards Committees (OSBAC)** in the Central Office of PhilHealth, Room 1107 11th floor Citystate Centre, 709 Shaw Blvd., Pasig City, and inspect the Bidding Documents from **8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

A complete set of Bidding Documents should be purchased by interested Bidders from April 3 - 17, 2006 at the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of **PhP 4,000.00** cash. The prospective Bidder or his authorized representative shall receive the Bidding Documents personally.

PhilHealth will hold a **Pre-Bid Conference** open to all interested parties on **April 18, 2006 at 10:30 a.m.** at the **OSBAC Conference Room** (Rm. 1106), PhilHealth Central Office, 11th floor Citystate Centre, 709 Shaw Blvd., Brgy. Oranbo, Pasig City.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the **OSBAC Conference Room** on or **before May 2, 2006, 10:30 a.m.** The official time shall be based on the wall clock located at **the OSBAC Conference Room.** Late Bids shall not be accepted.

**Bid opening shall be on May 2, 2006, 10:30 a.m. at the OSBAC Conference Room.** Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.

CY 2004 to CY 2005 is the relevant period for contracts which will be required to be submitted by PhilHealth.

PhilHealth reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Office of the Secretariat for the Bids and Awards Committees in the Central Office
**MR. JOSEPH O. VERGARA**
Rm. 1107, 11th Floor Citystate Centre
709 Shaw Blvd, Brgy. Oranbo, Pasig City
Tel. (02) 637-9999 locals 1128, 1130 and 1830
e-mail add: osbac@philhealth.gov.ph
Facsimile No. 637-4735
www.philhealth.gov.ph

(Sgd.) Atty. **VALENTIN C. GUANIO**
*Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee for Goods and Services*
(PDI–March 31 & April 7, 2006)

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Republic of the Philippines
**Local Government Unit of Baliwag**
Province of Bulacan

### INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY TO BID

### INTEGRATED SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM – MATERIALS RECOVERY FACILITY (ISWMS-MRF) FOR THE MUNICIPALITY OF BALIWAG PROVINCE OF BULACAN (DESIGN AND BUILD SCHEME)

The Municipality of Baliwag, by virtue of the duly approved Sanggunian Resolution have authorized the Honorable Mayor Romeo M. Estrella to secure funding through Bond Flotation an amount for the payments under the contract. **INTEGRATED SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM AND MATERIALS RECOVERY FACILITY (ISWMS-MRF) – DESIGN AND BUILD SCHEME** – ***in the amount of Php50.0 Million including the acquisition cost of the project site.***

**ISMS-MRF Design Requirement:**

The LGU will require the design/equipment importation/fabrication/installation and general plant building construction including road works and security fence of modular and Integrated Solid Waste Management System-Materials Recovery Facility (ISWMS-MRF). The proposed ISWMS-MRF shall demonstrate the capacity to treat, process and ultimately dispose – in an environment-friendly manner – the segregated or mixed domestic solid waste and special wastes from different sources within and outside of the municipality of Baliwag. The preferred technology must possess the ability to reclaim/convert 90% of incoming wastes into beneficial by-products such as biogas fuel, organic fertilizer, recyclable treated water, clean recyclable plastics and other materials, and to convert residual clean inerts into concrete blocks and construction filling materials. The objective is to prevent the necessity to operate and maintain solid waste landfill, therefore, prevent lecheate generation and leachate treatment and finally prevent odor and gas emissions. The preferred technology must possess prior technology verification from the DOST/ITDI, certifications from accredited/designated technical groups/verifiers, invention patents/utility models from IPO or similar technology verification groups.

The proposed technology must be compliant to the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9003, or, R.A. 6969. The Toxic Substances, Hazardous and Nuclear Wastes Act, R.A. 8749: The Philippine Clean Air Act of 1999, The Clean Water Act, PD 1152: The Philippine Environmental Code, the Kyoto Protocol and the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM).

Further, the operating objective of the ISWMS-MRF that the Municipality of Baliwag requires, must show viability and profits of operation and the operator, therefore, the facility shall possess the flexibility to treat and process the estimated 40.0 metric tons of municipal solid waste that it generates per day in more or less 8 hours/day operation and to continue operating for another six to eight (6-8) hours in order to process off-town solid waste sources.

Further, the prospective bidder/Applicant shall submit a comprehensive Design/Plans and Specs of the required Integrated Solid Waste Management System-Materials Recovery Facility/technology that must demonstrate that its operation and treatment of waste do not create nuisance or negative impacts to the environment and to the community, such as leachate, odor, gas emissions, vermin and infestation. Together with this Design/Plans, the applicant shall submit an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that is needed for the approval of the Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) of the proposed project.

1. The Municipality of Baliwag now invites potential Bidders to apply for eligibility for INTEGRATED SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM-MATERIALS RECOVERY FACILITY (DESIGN AND BUILD SCHEME). Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The deadline for the submission of eligibility documents shall be on or before **April 15, 2006.** Only those bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Documents.
2. Interested Bidders shall secure the Eligibility Documents, upon their submission of a Letter of Intent (LOI Form available at the address given below) from the BAC Secretariat at the address stated below, on or before **April 11, 2006.** They shall submit the accomplished Eligibility documents in order for these to be received by the BAC Secretariat in the same address, on or before **April 15, 2006.**
3. The Local Government of Baliwag reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without hereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.
4. "Waiver: The prospective bidder agrees and binds itself to abide to the final decision of the honorable members of the BAC and further waives any legal action or claims against the LGU of Baliwag pertaining to the project now and the future.

(Sgd.) REMIGIO VIOLA
Chairman BAC

(PDI–March 30, April 4 & 7, 2006)

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LCR FORM 10.1 (LCRO)

Republic of the Philippines
**Local Civil Registry Office**
Province of Misamis Oriental
Cagayan de Oro City

### NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

In compliance with Section 5 of R.A. No. 9048, a notice is hereby served to the public that **ARLENDO C. SARMIENTO** has filed with this Office a petition for change of first name from **ARLIN LORETO** to **ARLENDO** in the Certificate of Live Birth of **ARLIN LORETO CABRESOS SARMIENTO** who was born on **December 10, 1963** at **TAGBILARAN, BOHOL** and whose parents are **ANTOLIN GABINES SARMIENTO** and **BIBIANA CHIU CABRESOS.**

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his written opposition within this office not later than April 10, 2006

(Sgd.) **NORMA S. DIPUTADO**
City Civil Registrar

(PDI-Mar. 31 & April 7, 2006)

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**PNOC ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**
Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, 1200 Taguig City, Philippines
P.O. Box 2102 MCPO, Tel. Nos. 893-6001 to 47/893-1320 Fax No. 840-1575

PNOC
The Energy Company

### INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation (PNOC-EDC) invites interested contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the project.

**REPAINTING OF BUILDING FIVE EXTERIORS**
**EDC 06-040**

The Approved Budget is **PhP 1,625,000.00** chargeable against PNOC-EDC fund. The contract duration is 45 calendar days.

Application forms for eligibility and the bidding documents may be secured from the PNOC-EDC Contracts Administration Group (c/o F.T. Tolibas local 5179) starting March 31, 2006 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Pesos: Five Hundred (PhP 500.00).**

For the purpose of clarifying certain issues, a pre-bid conference will be held on **April 7, 2006, 2:00 p.m.** at the BAC Conference Room, First Floor, Building V, Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila. Site inspection will follow thereafter.

Application for eligibility and sealed bids shall be received by the PNOC-EDC Contracts Administration Group, First Floor, Building V, Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifaco, Taguig, Metro Manila **not later than 2:00 p.m. (Contracts Administration Group Office Wall Clock Time) of April 10, 2006** and shall be publicly opened immediately thereafter.

PNOC-EDC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informality therein, to accept such bids or to award any part of the work to any bidder whose bid is considered most advantageous to PNOC-EDC.

**The Chairman**
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–March 31 & April 7, 2006)

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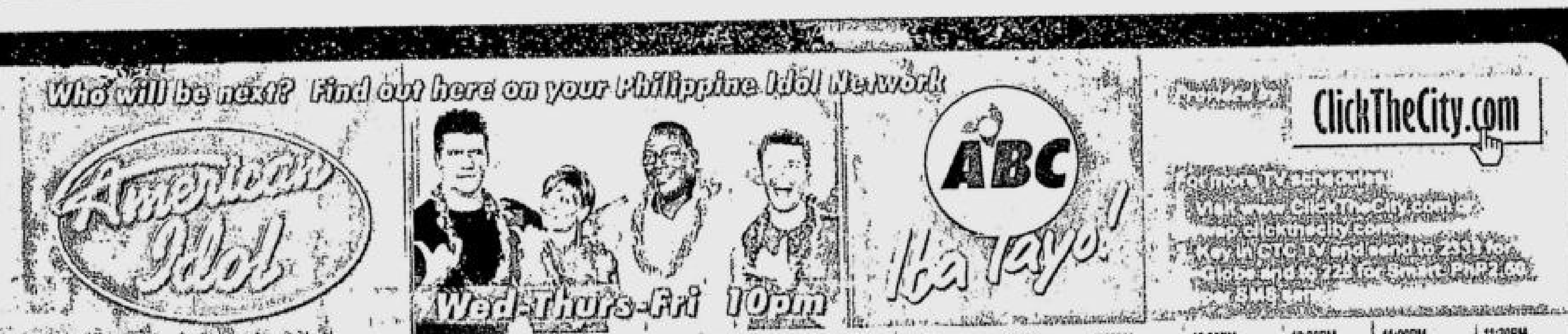
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

## TV GUIDE

Friday April 7, 2006


Who will be next? Find out here on your Philippine Idol Network
American Idol
Wed-Thurs-Fri 10pm
ABC
Iba Tayo!
ClickTheCity.com

| Channel | 2:30PM | 3:00PM | 3:30PM | 4:00PM | 4:30PM | 5:00PM | 5:30PM | 6:00PM | 6:30PM | 7:00PM | 7:30PM | 8:00PM | 8:30PM | 9:00PM | 9:30PM | 10:00PM | 10:30PM | 11:00PM | 11:30PM |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ABC 5 | | | WNCAA (Rerun) | National Geographic | PBA | | | | Sentro | PBA | | | | | Big News | Something About Miriam | | Real Stories | |
| ABS-CBN 2 | Kapamilya Cinema | | | Pasion de Amor | Little Amy | Mr. Bean | Naruto | Outstanding Twins | TV Patrol World | | Gulong Ng Palad | Sa Piling Mo | Panday | Princess Lulu | | Gudtaym | | | Insider |
| AXN | | Sports Disaster: Guinness World Records: 50 Yrs, 50 Records | | Fear Factor (Season V) | | Sakura Wars | Sakura Wars | Amazon | | WRC 2006: Rally XS | E Buzz | Kung Fu Hustle | | | | National Security | | | |
| Cartoon Network | Police Academy | Richie Rich | Hi Hi Puffy AmiYumi | Tom & Jerry Show | Baby Looney Tunes | Camp Lazlo | Coconut Fred's Fruit Salad Island | The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy | Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles | Power Rangers Wild Force | The Gransazers | Yu-Gi-Oh Double Duel | | Powerpuff Girls | | Mucha Lucha! | Duck Dodgers | Justice League | Samurai Jack |
| Cinema One | | My Heart Belongs To Daddy | | | | | | | The Boys & Girl From County Clare | Lastikman | | | | Panabla | | | | Ang Tange Kong Pag-ibig | |
| Cinemax | | | House Of Wax (3:45 PM) | | | Prehistorical 2 (5:10PM) | | | | | | Tripwire | | | We're No Angels | | | Saw 2 (11:15PM) | |
| CNN | | | | Business International | | World News | World Sport | Larry King Live | | Business International | | World News Asia | | World News | World Sport | World News Asia | | World News | World Sport |
| Crime/Suspense | | Surface | | Law & Order: Special Victims Unit | | Profiler | | Forensic Files | Hollywood Justice | Law & Order | | Law & Order: Special Victims Unit | | Dominick Dunne's Power, Privilege & Justice | | Law & Order: Criminal Intent | | Crossing Jordan | |
| Discovery Channel | | Extreme Engineering | | Deadly Women | | Beyond Tomorrow | | More Than Human | | Rides | | American Chopper | | Beyond Tomorrow | | Mostly True Stories | | Crime Night | |
| Disney Channel | Mr. Bean, The Animated Series | Totally Spies | Art Attack/Untalkative Bunny | Mickey Mouse and Friends | Lilo & Stitch | Martin Mystery | Totally Spies | Kim Possible | Mr. Bean: The Animated Series | That's So Raven: That's So Trendy Week | Wonderful World Of Disney | | | Brandy & Mr. Whiskers | | Mickey Mouse and Friends | Chip N Dale's Rescue Rangers | Wonderful World Of Disney | |
| ESPN | | Pro Billiards '05: Men's Trick Shot Magic | | World Snooker Tour Travis Perkins Finals | | | | | | LPGA Golf Kraft Nabisco C'ship 2nd rd | | Sportscenter Asia | | Sportscenter Asia | Major League Baseball Thurs: Athletics @ Mariners | | | | |
| ETC | | Saturday Night Live | | Change of Heart | Elimidate | Blind Date | Fifth Wheel | Seinfeld | Ambush Makeover | The Tyra Banks Show | | Joan Of Arcadia | | American Dreams 2 | | Entertainment Tonight | The Insider | The Tonight Show With Jay Leno | |
| Fox News | | Hannity & Colmes | | On The Record With Greta Van Susteren | | The O'Reilly Factor | | Your World With Neil Cavuto | | Fox & Friends | | | | | | Fox News Live | | | |
| GMA 7 | Kung Mamahalin Mo Lang Ako | Now and Forever | First Love Of A Royale Prince | | Dragonball Z | Great Teacher Onizuka | La Robe de Mariage | 24 Oras | | Extra Challenge | Majika | Encantadia | My Name Is Kim Sam Soon | Jewel In The Palace | | Bubble Gang | | | Saksi |
| Hallmark Channel | | Mcleod's Daughters IV | | The Sandy Bottom Orchestra | | | | Bewitched | The Nanny | Family Law III | | Missing II | | Doc Martin | | The Hound Of The Baskervilles | | | Doc Martin II (11:45PM) |
| HBO | | | | Every Time We Say Goodbye | | | | Mermaids | | | The Big Bounce | | | Fatal Attraction | | | | Crimson Force (10:55PM) | |
| Hero TV | Yu-Gi-Oh Duel Monsters | Yakitate! Japan | Mr. Ajikko | D.I.C.E. | Samurai Deeper Kyo | Combattler V | Gundam Seed | Iron Man 28 | Beyblade G-Revolution | Yu-Gi-Oh GX | Naruto | Mamo de Pon | Inuyasha | Yu-Gi-Oh Duel Monsters | Yakitate! Japan | Mr. Ajikko | D.I.C.E. | Samurai Deeper Kyo | Gundam Seed |
| IBC 13 | | EZ Shop | | | | Home Shopping Network | IBC Express Balita | Lifestyle | | Home Shopping Network | | ME TV | | PTA Best Of The Philippines | | Global Family Series | IBC News Tonite | Home Shopping Network | |
| JackTV | Primetime Glick | The Late Show David Letterman | | Jack In The Box | | | | Megas XLR | Beat The Geeks | Mad TV | | | Always Sunny In Philadelphia | The Late Show David Letterman | | The Daily Show With Jon Stewart | Premium Blend | Reno 911 | Insomniac W/ Dave Attell |
| Lifestyle Network | Country Style | Interiors By Design | Decorating With Style | Decorating Cents | Molto Mario | Sweet Dreams | 30 Minute Meals | Bill Boggs Corner | Unwrapped | Mag's Quest | Intimate Portrait | | Behind The Velvet Ropes | Martha | | Simply Wine With Andrea Immer | The Great Adventure | Iron Chef America | |
| MTV Philippines | | Boiling Points | | MTV Hits | Pop Inc. | | 2006 MAA Nominee Specials | MTV Hits | | Get Spotted | Making the Video: Kanye Heard Em Say | | MTV Hits | MTV Diyes | | Boiling Points | | MTV Hits | |
| MYX | | Rock MYX | My MYX | Mellow MYX | Urban MYX | Take 5 | MYXILOG | | Star MYX | OPM MYX | Pop MYX | MYX Daily Top Ten | | Club MYX | MYX Versions | Urban MYX | My MYX | MYX Backtrax | MYXILOG |
| National Geographic | Africa From The Ground Up | Explorations Powered By Duracell | Rough Trades | Nat Geographic Amazing Moments | | | | Top 5 | | Wow! | | About Asia | | Terrorism Watch | | Explorations Powered By Duracell | Rough Trades | Animal Cannibals | |
| NBN | | Teledyaryo Alas-Tres | | Teledyaryo Sports Atbp. | Dyos Ko, Mahal Mo Ba Sila? | Teledyaryo W/ Ray Langit & Angelique Lazo | | Tinig ng Bayan (Live) | | | | Teledyaryo Final Edition | | | | Bantay OCW With Susan K | | | |
| Nickelodeon | Chalkzone | Hey Arnold! | SpongeBob SquarePants | My Life As A Teenage Robot | All Grown Up | The Adventures Jimmy Neutron | SpongeBob SquarePants | Drake & Josh | Naturally Sadie | Romeo | All That | All Grown Up | As Told By Ginger | Four Eyes | SpongeBob SquarePants | The Adventures Jimmy Neutron | The Fairly Odd Parents | My Dad The Rock Star | |
| PBO | | | Wooly Bully 1 (Ang Classmate Kong Alien) | | | | Tol Ako Naman | | | | Ang Kuya Kong Siga | | | | Sarah Geronimo: The Popstar | | | | Ang Kapitbahay |
| Qtv | Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin | | Zorro | The Prince Of Tennis | MMS (My Music Station) | | Moms | | Love At Aegean Sea | Irene | Mars | Laugh To Laugh: Ang Kulit | Ganda Ng Lola Ko | | News On Q | Love Life | | Irene | Over The Green Fields |
| RPN 9 | TV Shopping | | | | Krusada Kontra Krimen | | Global Window | | The Insider | WWE Smackdown | | World Poker | | The Ultimate Fighter | | Newswatch Now | TV Goals On Friday | | |
| SBN 21 | | | | New Life TV Shopping | | | | Entertainment Tonight | | Quantum Global | | Oras Ng Himala | | Oras ng Katotohanan | | Shepherds Voice | | SBN Music Video | |
| Solar Sports | | | | WTA Indian Wells '06 Qfinals | | | | Winner TV Shopping | | Sagupaan | NBA Jam | NBA Game Lakers @ Nuggets | | | | | Solar Sports Desk | Swatch FIVB World Tour Athens | |
| Sports Plus | | | | | | | | Gillette World Cup Preview 6 | SMB Poker Bar Tour Finals | Raceworld | | Nopi Tunervision 5 | Rookie Manual | BD Hawaiian Tropic | Wild Side | FIFA Preview Series 6 | Golf Today | Inside the PGA | Bay Hill Invitational Highlights |
| Star Movies | | Faultline (2:50PM) | | | Chaos Moon (4:20PM) | | | Miracle Of The Heart | | | The Haunted Mansion | | | The Lazarus Child | | | Phantom Below (10:40PM) | | |
| Star World | 8 Simple Rules/Arrested Development | The Bold & The Beautiful | | General Hospital | | Ed | | The Simpsons | Malcolm In The Middle | Star News Asia | Seinfeld | TNA Wrestling | | The Collector | | NYPD Blue | | Seinfeld | Walker Texas Ranger |
| Studio 23 | Dance Idol | Masked Rider Ryuki | | | | Batman Beyond | Teen Titans | The Batman | Justice League Unlimited | Wazzup Wazzup | | Barkada Nights | | | | News Central | Oprah | | Just Shoot Me |

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LIFESTYLE
*Editor* **Chelo Banal-Formoso**
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# Braided, beaded and bold

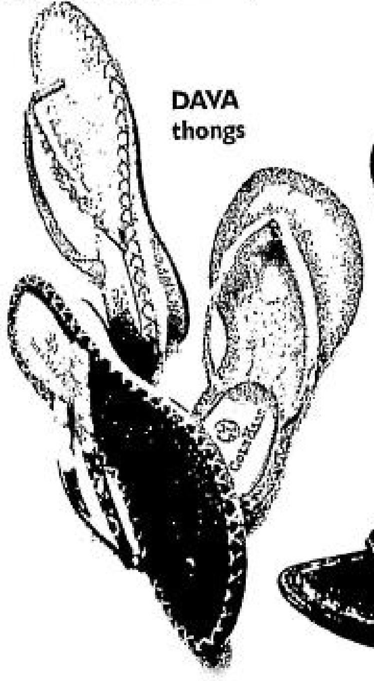
FOR THIS SUMMER, THE COLE HAAN collection is a cultural fusion, playing out exotic elements like braided leathers, beads, roping, python and metallic leathers, and bold, bright colors.

Handbags are emblazoned with nautical roping, colorful beads and floral appliqués while shoes are wrapped in chinoiserie-like fabrics.

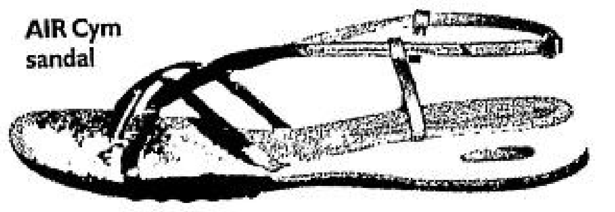
The award-winning Nike-owned company has just about every style to catch your fancy. Slides, sandals and thongs are golden, pearlized or in suede for the beachcomber and the traveler; mules, split toes and oxfords in deer print, tan distressed and nutmeg are for the corporate look.

The CH collection is available at its concept stores in Rockwell Power Plant Mall, Glorietta 4 and Shangri-La Plaza, and Rustan's Makati, Shang Mall and Gateway.

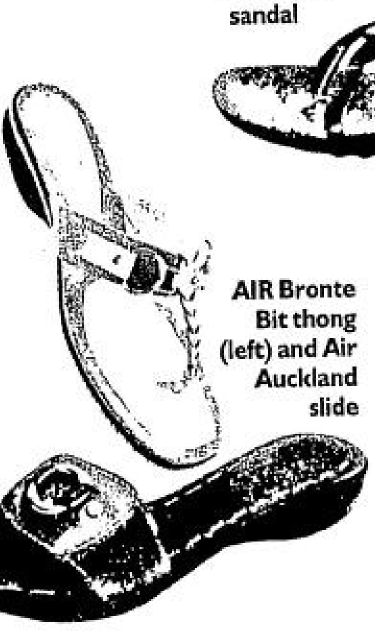
**CARLEIGH slide, Sierra Embroidery large carryall**



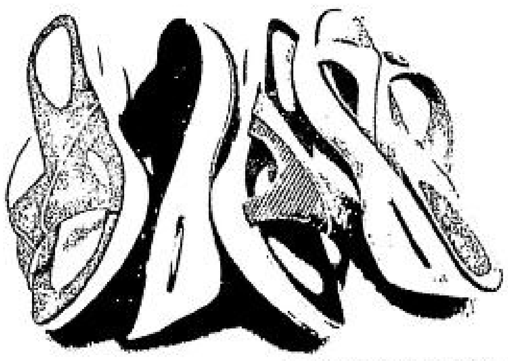
**DAVA thongs**



**AIR Cym sandal**



**AIR Bronte Bit thong (left) and Air Auckland slide**



**AIR Hampden slides**

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**THIRD-GENERATION** jeweler Carissa Oledan Coscolluela and father Buji Coscolluela, with Duty Free Phil. general manager Michael Kho

**BEJEWELED** organizers. Motorola's Mari Litonjua, Shu Uemura's Tina Tinio and Shu Uemura chief international makeup artist Kakuyasu Uchiide

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**A TRUE** luxury collaboration: Philippine Shu Uemura artist Xeng Zulueta and co-organizer Tom Valderrama of Smart Infinity

# Bejeweled crowd gets more bling

**RUFFA** Gutierrez Bektas with her diamond-studded Motorola RAZR V3i

**ASIAN** Games gold medalist Mikee Cojuangco Jaworski

**MICHIKO** Tachibana and Margot Vargas Osmeña hold up their ruby, pink and sapphire false eyelashes and diamond-encrusted Motorola cell phones, respectively, which are the evening's prizes.

**SAVANNAH** Lumen, in a vintage-inspired outfit, was the fitting winner of the Vintage Vert green and white diamond lashes.

**KELLY** Misa shows off her sapphire and diamond-encrusted Shu Uemura false eyelashes.

**SOCIO-CIVIC-ORIENTED** woman Kate Gordon and newlywed Audrey Tan Zubiri with mother, adorable Dette Tan

**WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH**

*Maurice Arcache*

Photos by Alex Van Hagen using **Kodak** EasyShare system

JUST AS THE INVITATION HAD promised, *palanggas*, "Bejeweled!" was the fabulous launch of the precious stone-encrusted Shu Uemura's false eyelashes and Motorola's cool RAZR V3i mobile phone. Also sponsored by Smart Infinity, it was the most dazzling happening of the week.

Cosmo Manille's low-profile crowd was out mixing with our town's chic-hip partying regulars. They thought they had seen it all until brilliant, and young **Carissa Oledan Coscolluela** of the renowned Oledan jewelers decided to embellish the latest beauty accessories from Shu Uemura's Tokyo Lash Bar, with no less than—yes—diamonds, rubies, sapphires and emeralds, dahlings!

And to complement the eyelash collection, Carissa came up with gorgeous, awesome bejeweled Motorola RAZR V3i Phones encrusted also with fantastic precious stones.

Highlight of the night was a makeup demonstration by Shu Uemura's chief international makeup artist, **Kakuyasu Uchiide.** Smart **Tina Tinio** had organized the program; she made everyone feel at home as we nibbled on the yummy, limitless flow of cocktail finger food courtesy of Zen Restaurant and booze care of Bailey's.

Also making us feel at home were good-looking Motorola marketing manager **Mari Litonjua** and handsome Smart Infinity boss **Tom Valderrama.**

Invitees breezed in with their own interpretation of "dazzling glamour." The "most dazzling people of the night" became winners of the limited jeweled collection.

*Moi* breezed in with **Linda Oledan**, who was, *naturellement*, *trés* proud of her daughter's fantastic work; **Bibing Montelibano Villanueva**, blooming **Anna Oledan Rodriguez** and brilliant **Chickie Locsin**, who came with her pretty daughters, **Bea** and **Farah.**

*Moi* zoomed in on mother-and-daughter tandem, fashion plate **Mary Ann Cuenca T.** and **Alessandra Tinio**; popular Rep. **Edmund Reyes**, with his stunning wife, **Camille**; and hardworking socio-civic lady, **Kate Gordon**, on one of her rare nights out.

Hey! You'd think only the women would be interested in the bejeweled goodies, but *moi* spotted loads of gentlemen intently inspecting the prized items, *palanggas*: Duty Free Philippines top honcho **Michael Kho**; Carissa's father, **Buji Coscolluela; Michael James Chua**; Rustan's **Dino Tantoco Pineda**; and architect and Pineapple store owner **Anton Barretto** (who missed winning a Motorola studded with precious stones for not being there when his name was called. Pity!)

Also there were Metro Pacific's corporate communication official **David Nugent**, who was with his close pal, well-liked **Ipe Cruz**, and Super! **Tim Yap**, who dashed in late.

Beautiful faces were almost everywhere: **Ruffa Gutierrez Bektas**; **Mikee Cojuangco Jaworski**; and stunning **Audrey Tan Zubiri**.

Two beautiful gals worked behind the scenes to make the affair a success: fab Shu Uemura team members **Tessa Dragon** and **Xeng Zulueta.**

The grand moment was the awarding of the jeweled eyelashes to the night's dazzling lookers. **Savannah Lumen** received the lashes adorned with green and white diamonds; fab fashion plate **Michiko Tachibana** won the ruby-studded lashes; **Kelly Misa** won the diamond and sapphire lashes; and **Hazel Espinosa** won the Madonna-inspired all-diamond lashes.

Statuesque **Marivic Pineda** went home with Motorola's RAZR V3i, studded with diamonds, and blue and yellow sapphire; our *palangga* , **Margot Vargas Osmeña**, brought back to Cebu the cell phone with diamonds and pink sapphire; debonair businessman **Rick Yupangco** won the diamond, ruby and sapphire version; and Ruffa G. got the diamond Motorola RAZR V3i.

As if all that luxurious celebrating wasn't enough, Addict Mobile, headed by brilliant young hotshot, **Luis Ang**, treated everyone to an after-party celebration at Embassy's Cuisine, with über-flowing Smirnoff Vodka.

Definitely a dazzling way, to end a stunning evening with those fabulous brands, dahlings.

## Humble birthday boy

**Juanito Rosales**, the vice president of Ayala Corp., gave a fun birthday dinner held at the exclusive Executive Lounge of 6750 in Ayala Avenue, *palanggas*.

While most would mention the work and sacrifice they had to go through before they made their first million, or how they received their most prestigious award, Juanito R. humbly told his invitees he was gratified that people "recognized my contributions and took the time to attend my birthday dinner."

Manila Archbishop **Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales** celebrated the Thanksgiving Mass. Well-wishers included Ayala's pillar of strength, **Jaime Zobel de Ayala**, and charity-oriented, **Doña Bea Miranda Zobel de Ayala, Fernando Zobel de Ayala, Jaime Ysmael Sr., Antonio Aquino** and **Sherisa Nuesa**, dahlings.

During the bash, Nitoy recalled, "My thoughts that night were, *sino ba ako* that all these people would actually make time for me and accept my invitation?"

The answer is simple, sir. You've really come a long way, birthday boy. *N'est ce pas*? Cheers, *palangga*!

**INTERIOR** designer Anton Barretto and Trina Punsalan

**RUSTAN** royals Dino Pineda and wife Marivic, the lucky winner of the diamond and yellow and blue sapphire Motorola RAZR V3i

**SHU UEMURA'S** pretty young asset Tessa Dragon and Addict Mobile's main man Luis Ang at Embassy Cuisine *après* the party organized by Addict Mobile

**GLAMOROUS** body beautiful Merl Tantoco Pineda and pal, Susie Quiros

**PATTY** Pineda and vivacious Carmina Sanchez

**INQUIRER'S** eye-catching gals Kat Cruz and Ria Francisco Prieto

**WOMEN** of substance. Heir to the throne, second-generation top jeweler Linda Oledan and Chickie Locsin

**SMART** Infinity top client John Tan and Motorola Phils. country manager Patrick Aronson

**DAVAO** royals Maricris Floirendo Brias and mother, Doña Nenita del Rosario-Floirendo

**THE AYALA GANG.** MWC president Antonio Aquino; MWC CFO Sherisa Nuesa; the celebrator, our king of the day, Juanito P. Rosales, Ayala Land vice president, Jaime Zobel de Ayala, Ayala Corp. chair; Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales; Doña Bea Miranda Zobel de Ayala; and ALI chair, Fernando Zobel de Ayala

**THE CELEBRATOR'S** wife Dr. Betty Rosales and sons HP, Allan and Mikey

**THE CLOSING** ceremony of the 65th anniversary celebration of La Consolacion College, Caloocan City was highlighted by the awarding of Most Outstanding Alumni in various fields. Awardees are Corazon Ongpauco Tamayo, business; Rita Linda Jimeno, law; Jorge Lerma Banal, family life; Carmencita Banal-Padilla, community service; Jean Ann Toral, science and technology research; Eva Robles, education. With them are Sr. Ma. Gerolinda Tingzon and Sr. Puri Alma S. Pena, Basic Education principal.

## GOINGS ON

# Search for 'Superbods'

CENTURY TUNA WILL HOLD THE FIRST-EVER search for its next image models, "Century Tuna Superbods Beach Fest" on April 29 at Pier One in Boracay. The contest is open to men and women aspiring models aged 18-40 years old. Registration is 10 a.m.-12 nn and 2-4:30 p.m. on April 29 at Pier One. Finals will be held in the evening. Winners will get P500,000 each and a one-year modeling contract with Century Tuna. Motorola cell phones, iPods, cash and Century Tuna gift certificates can be won during the raffle draws.

**UNVEILING.** JC Spice Corporation, the multilevel direct selling company, will unveil its summer catalogue on April 8 at Metrowalk Ortigas. Interested guests may register from 2-6 p.m. Trainings and seminars will be held. Guests can also sample cosmetic and organic products by JC Spice.

**WINNER.** A 19-year-old student from De La Salle University won the grand prize in the recently concluded "Shop Your Way to Paris" promo of Lulu Castagnette.

Stephanie Ng will fly to Paris on a four-day, three-night trip for two with accommodations and a "personalized" tour of the Lulu Castagnette Paris shop as part of her prize.

Five consolation-prize winners each won P10,000 worth of Lulu Castagnette gift certificates. They are Iris Araujo, Jennifer Cua Ki, Sarah Santillan, Juanita Arroyo and Sally Lim Gotamco. Twenty-two other shoppers won one pair of jeans, one beary charm and P400 discount coupon each while 120 winners received gift packs of one T-shirt, one stuffed teddy bear, makeup and P400 discount coupon.

Lulu Castagnette branches are located at 2/L Glorietta 4, 3/L Building A SM Megamall, and U Rustan's Alabang Town Center.

**MUSIC CLASSES.** The Ryan Cayabyab Music Studio is offering music appreciation classes for children aged 3-7. Activities include rhythm and movement, listening, instrumental and ensemble playing and group singing. Registration is ongoing at T-113 Sunvar Plaza, Pasay Road corner Amorsolo St., Makati. Call 8443330, 8438040 and 0917-9096484.

**WORKSHOP.** The Philippine Society of Librarians and Information Specialists (PSLIS) will hold a seminar-workshop, "Cataloging and Indexing Updates: An Achievement Workshop," on April 10-12 at 10/F SEC Bldg., Edsa, Greenhills, Mandaluyong City. Call 7241994, 5278351 local 206, 0919-7727678, 5238688 and 0919-5180128.

**VISA ORIENTATION.** The Philippine-American Educational Foundation (PAEF) will hold student visa orientations on April 8 and May 6, 9-11:30 a.m. The events are for students applying to US universities and colleges, their parents and families. Call 8120945 or e-mail mtan@paef.org.pg for details and for reservations.

**ENGLISH COURSE.** The Department of English of the Ateneo de Manila University is offering limited slots in certificate courses in English Language and Literature teaching from April 20-May 27. Courses to be taught include Effective Communication Skills, Principles and Practices of Language Teaching, and Principles and Practices of Literature Teaching. Registration is ongoing. Call 4266120 or email Chona Lin at clin@ateneo.edu.

**BIGTIME RELOAD.** Sun Cellular presents Bigtime Reload to its prepaid subscribers. Every time you accumulate P400 worth of load within the promo month, you get 100 free SMS which you can use to text both your friends in the Sun network and your friends from other mobile networks. Load up Sun Cellular Regular Prepaid Call Cards available in P50, P150, P300 or P500 denominations; Sun Xpress Load available from P20 to P150; 24/7 Text Unlimited Cards; 24/7 Call&Text Unlimited Call Cards, Daylite Call & Text Unlimited Call Cards; IDD Top 5 or 10 Call Cards. Call its 24-hour hotline number at 3958000. Ongoing until May 31.

**STA. LUCIA PROMO.** Shop at Sta. Lucia East Department Store and affiliate stores Planet Toys and Home Gallery up to May 15 and get the chance to win cash and a trip to Boracay. Every P500 purchase entitles shoppers to one raffle coupon in the Great Escape Summer Raffle Promo, where SLE card holders earn double points, and two raffle coupons.

Sta. Lucia will also hold an egg-hunting activity for kids aged 10 and below. Present a P500 single purchase receipt from the department store/Planet Toys dated March 20-April 9. You may also pay at the redemption booth to register and get tickets. Kids who can find as many eggs as they can win special prizes. The one who finds the "golden egg" wins a bigger prize. Easterrific Day is set on April 16, 2 p.m., at the mall's function hall. Call 6815401 local 109.

**GIFT IDEAS.** Electronics Boutique offers special graduation gifts for as low as P995, until April 15. Electronics Boutique has branches at Park Square, Ayala Center, Robinsons Galleria, Market! Market! and Alabang Town Center. Call 8990102.

**LECTURE.** The Department of English of the Ateneo de Manila University holds a lecture on "Books of the 20th Century" from April 20-May 31 at the ADMU campus, Monday to Friday, 7:30-9 a.m. Lecture will feature 10 most distinguished selections of the 20th century, such as the poems of Rainer Maria Rilke, T.S. Eliot, and Pablo Neruda, "Mrs. Dalloway" by Virginia Woolf, "The Stranger" by Albert Camus, "Lolita" by Vladimir Nabokov and selections from "Ulysses" by James Joyce. The course allows for a more in-depth and critical look of the books. Seminar-lecture will be conducted by Maximino Pulan. Call 4266120 or 4266001.

**RAFFLE PROMO.** Digitel is giving NetVantage subscribers the chance to win desktop computers and iPod Nanos with its Gear Up Raffle Promo ending May 15.

Just subscribe to NetVantage during the promo period. Digitel Net Direct postpaid subscribers only have to upgrade their subscription to NetVantage. They get one raffle coupon for every P200 of subscribed plan. Raffle coupons may be claimed by presenting the official receipt of subscription to upgrade at any Digitel business center. Raffle draws will be conducted at designated Digitel business centers and witnessed by a Department of Trade and Industry representative. Call 171-0 from a Digitel phone or 2493282 from a non-Digitel phone.

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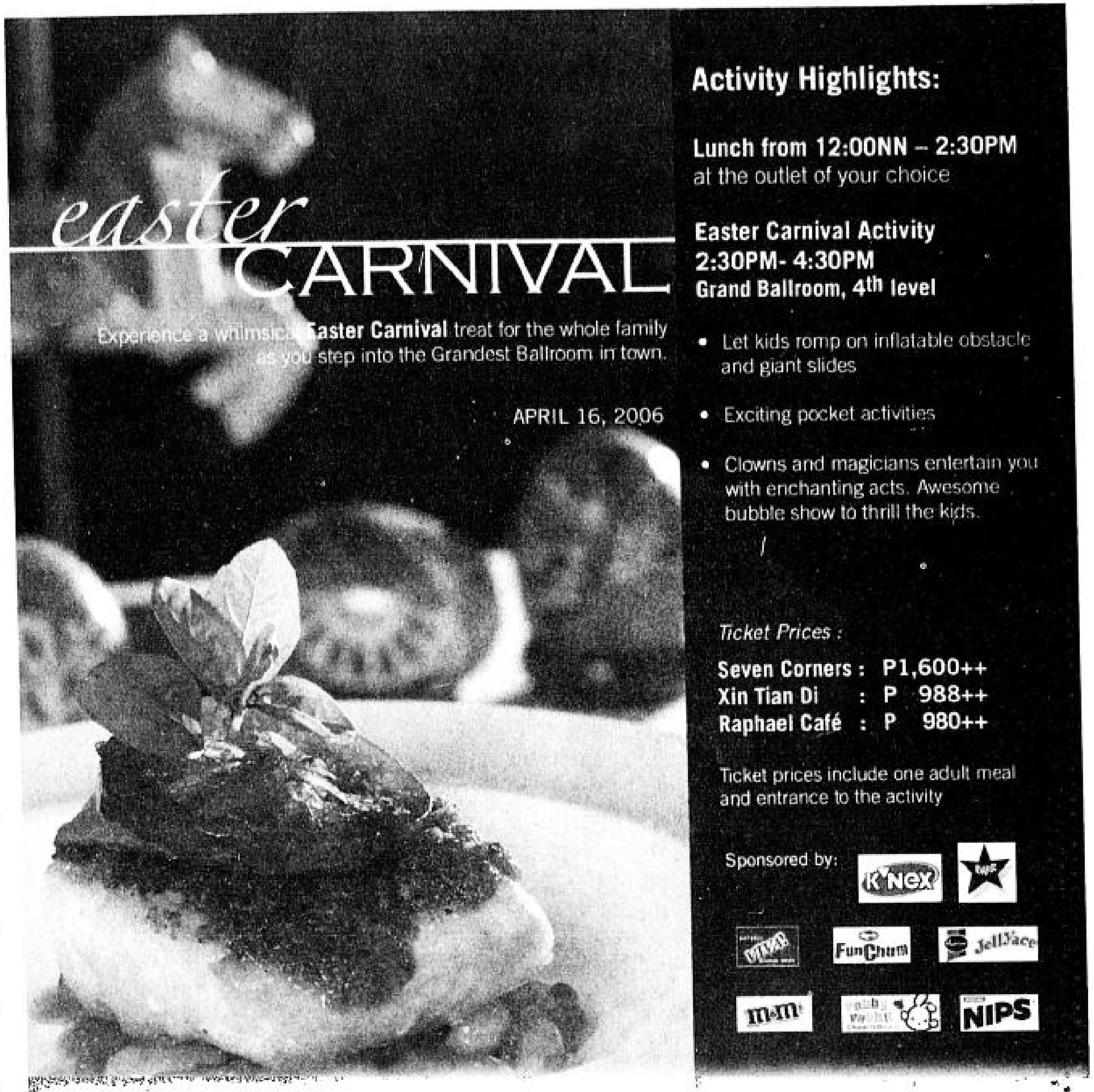
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# How to get a life after South Beach Diet

**LIFE-STYLED**

*Thelma Sioson San Juan*

THIS IS SOME SORT OF CONFESSION: I'VE been off South Beach Diet for a year now, and have thus made peace with carbohydrates. In the last two years, SBD was all the rage, with a considerable number of people hopping on the bandwagon, so to speak, men and women, young and old, from bank presidents to models. This mass conversion was helped in part by personal testimonies of "successful" or "surviving" dieters, including us.

Funny, but to a weird few, I've come to be associated with SBD. One time, in an out-of-town resto, I was gorging on my "heaven food"—cheesecake (I've been rating cheesecakes all over the metro; it's a personal thing)—when someone from a nearby table of women, some acquaintances, walked up to me and asked, in an almost accusatory tone, "What are you doing? We went on South Beach [because of you], then now you're having that!" Spoken to a traitor of some cause. I didn't know whether to swallow that cheesecake whole or to explain rationally that my SBD column was more than a year ago.

But, as Newsweek pointed out recently, the field of health is characterized by fad diets, information overload and, particularly relating to diets, speedy turnover of information: villain today, good guy tomorrow.

Examples: bacon and egg. In the '70s and '80s, these foods were the outcast, blamed for heart diseases. In the past decade, we've been told of the redeeming qualities of erstwhile "bad-guy" foods such as eggs, peanuts, meats, even coffee.

Coconut oil is a perfect example—vilified eons ago, virgin coconut oil is considered the miracle drink today.

## Hard to ignore

Yet diet is a concern hard to ignore. Health has become the main agenda in today's lifestyle among both the baby boomers and the Generation Y.

So back to SBD. When in doubt [about fitness and health], ask Tina Juan who has advocated all this time smart eating and exercise. Rational, moderate, nothing extreme or ridiculous. She has lived as she has written. I asked her to come up with a book on "smart carbs," using recipes by young and popular chef Bambi Sy Gobio.

JEANNIE Goulbourn

In it, Tina writes a very good point: "How long can a weight-conscious Pinoy go on eating celery and peanut butter for *merienda*?... What you like to eat is part of who you are. The type of food you prefer is influenced by what your family has been serving every day... Someone raised in the Filipino culture has an emotional and psychological attachment to carbs, rice in particular. Even Filipinos who have moved abroad have a hard time cutting the umbilical cord to rice."

In short, we can't live without carbo. It's only a matter of determining which carbo. Tina has also stressed that one can't be on diet forever; the point of going into a diet is that someday, one has to get off it.

So a few months of SBD are enough. After one has shed 10 or so pounds, it's time to go back to carbo, the right carbo. In fact, many are going "*balik*-carbo." Tina says it's a matter of choosing the right ones. I didn't go back to white rice fully, I take brown rice for fiber.

The ideal is to have a good share of vegetables and protein, and to know when to say no to the sweets and cakes, and when to say "oh, yes."

## Impressive

I've known quite a few who have kept their trim healthy body after SBD. Jeannie Goulbourn is one. She now tells me that she allows herself some carbo now and then.

A most impressive case is network executive Monchet Olives, who's lost 113 lb since more than a year ago, going down from jeans size 46 to 33. He jumpstarted all this by going on SBD in January last year. Since then, he's modified it by sticking to chicken, fish and "all kinds of veggies," and staying away from sweets and carbo. He has 1/2 cup brown rice twice a week.

"I still like to eat but, if I have to eat something, it must really be worth it. Just being judicious," he told us. For example, he hasn't had beer in over a year.

What Monchet had or is having is not a diet, but a lifestyle change. "It's retooling my entire life," he said.

Now he feels light and healthy enough to be in the gym four times a week and to go rowing at 5 a.m.

So how to take carbs smartly? Cut down on white rice, for one. Have lots of fiber (whole wheat bread, for instance) that gives you full-stomach feeling. And mix carbs and protein ingeniously in your meals.

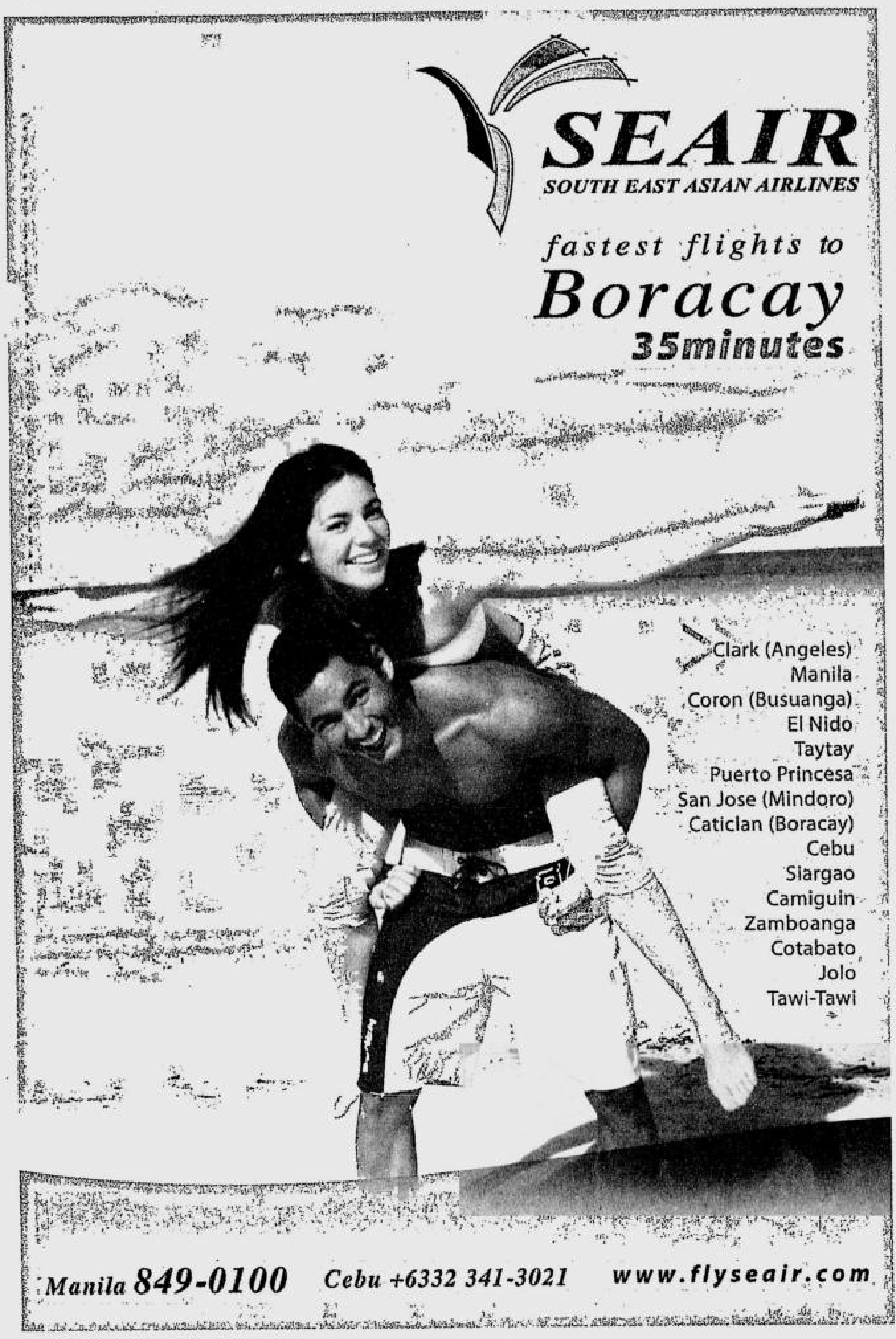
"Smart Carbs, Good-carbohydrate Recipes for Every Lifestyle," the book (available in all bookstores) by chef Sy Gobio, Tina Juan and nutritionist Luchi Callanta, precisely has these recipes, 114 of them, from appetizers to desserts, from Cheese Fondue with Broccoli to Low-carb French Toast.

Each recipe comes with nutrition and health notes by Tina and Luchi. Did you know, for instance, that mushrooms strengthen your immune system and enhance the male reproductive system? They're low in calories, are sodium-free, fat- and cholesterol-free. Basically, they tell you what happens with what you put into your mouth.

As Tina writes, "Smart eating combines pleasure with good nutrition."

It is eating without regrets.

MONCHET Olives



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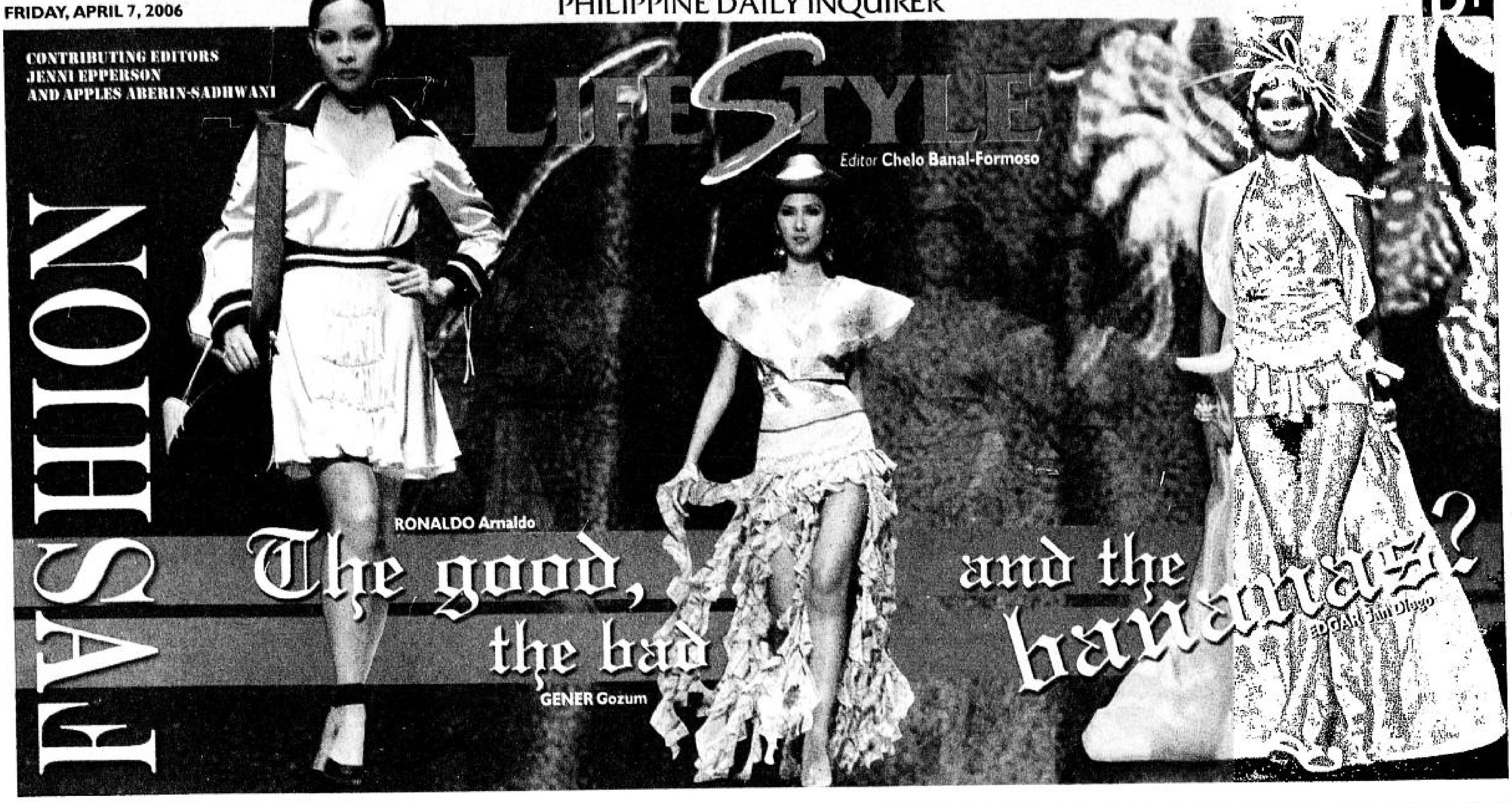


# The good, the bad and the bananas?

RONALDO Arnaldo

GENER Gozum

EDGAR San Diego

FASHION DESIGNERS' ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES GALA

# Slim pickings at 25

In the absence of a sensible forecast, something as basic as wearability seemed like an afterthought among the participating designers

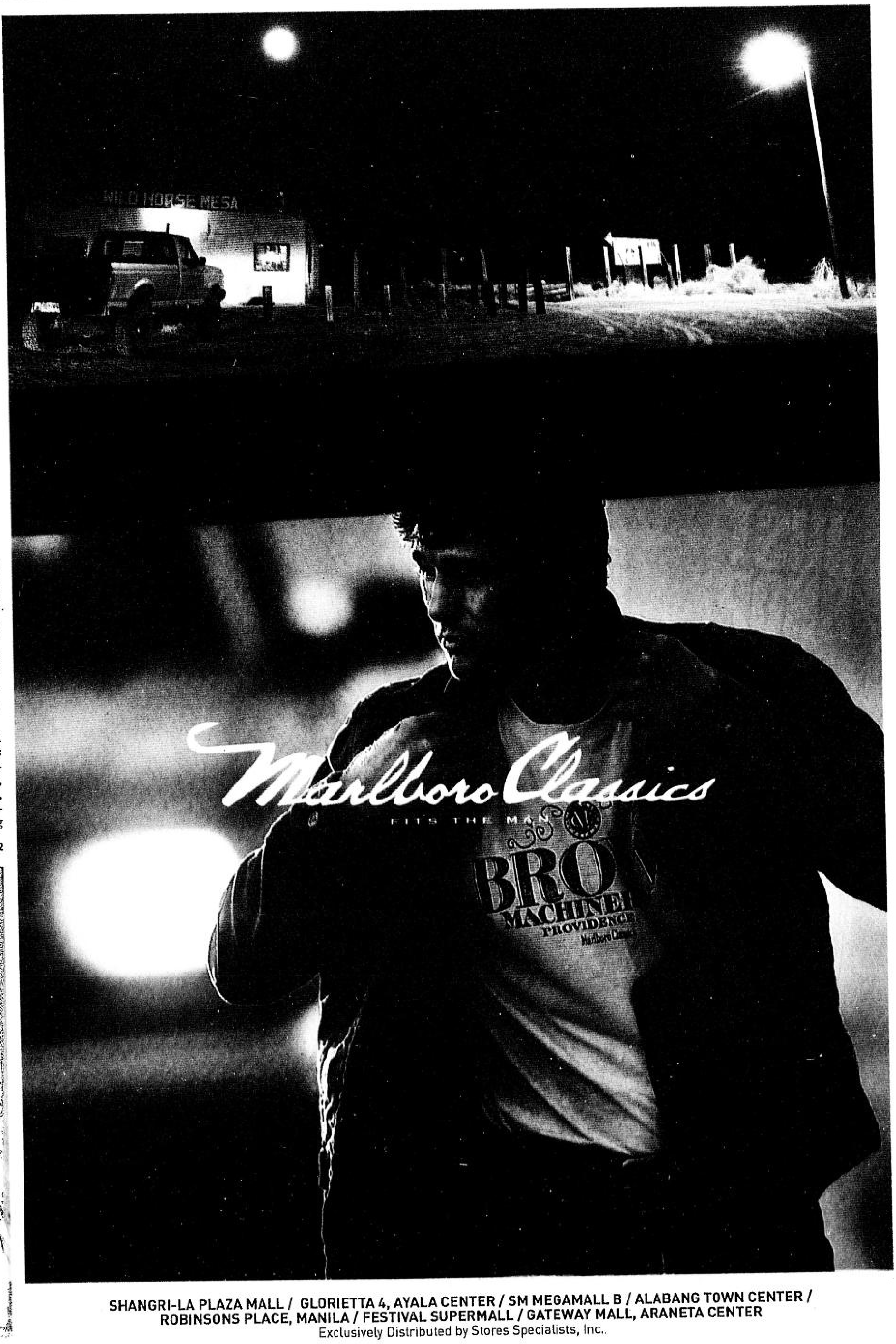
**Text by Alex Y. Vergara**
**Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan**

IF TURNING 25 IS SUPPOSED to be a crossroad in a person's life—when he starts to look back with fondness on his youth while steeling himself for more serious work ahead—this fact of life seemed to have been lost on not a few members of the Fashion Designers' Association of the Philippines.

Philippine Fashion Week's recent curtain raiser featured the works of FDAP stalwarts such as Edgar San Diego, Fanny Seranno, Oskar Peralta, Gener Gozum, Johnny Abad, Francis Calaquian and Edgar Madamba, among others, as they marked their silver anniversary as a group. And what an appalling opening salvo it was!

SLIM/D2

FANNY Serrano



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**ROLAND Lirio**

**REM Divino**

**OSKAR Peralta**

**RONALDO Arnaldo**

**JEROME Ang**

**JEROME Ang**

# Slim pickings at 25

From page D1

Save for the works of a handful of young members (I'm being literal here since you can count them with your fingers), the entire exercise was mired in vintage *pasiklaban* since almost every designer seemed to be intent on outdoing the other.

Instead of acting like responsible adults befitting FDAP's age, members behaved like a bunch of rowdy kids screaming, scratching, kicking and wringing each other's necks in the playground.

In the absence of a sensible forecast, something as basic as wearability seemed like an afterthought among participating designers. Thus, going through the show was like watching a surreal version of the Santacruzan, another favorite venue for *patalbugan*, this time on the catwalk.

The result was a disaster either as big and unwieldy as Peralta's cake-topper confection of a collection consisting of cheap ribbons and tiers of candy-colored tulle, or as revolting as Gozum's Brazilian-inspired abomination (my apologies to Brazilians).

True to form, the latter again combined almost all the elements found in the fashion books: ruching, beading, cording and layering to come up with tiered and ruffled pieces that ventured into the realm of bad costumes.

One model had the misfortune of wearing one of Gozum's ill-fitting beaded dresses with an uneven hem. Much as she tried to hide behind a huge ruffled wrap, there was no denying the fact that her undies were showing.

If he keeps at it, Roland Lirio is destined to become Gozum's heir apparent. As if his dizzying patchwork pieces made of various laces and floral prints weren't enough, he attached a ridiculous train made again from the same materials to one of his short bubble dresses.

## Reliable names

It was, indeed, a night of slim pickings, as even such usually reliable names as Olé Morabe and Rem Divino fell short of expectations. The former wasn't his usual creative self with crinkled pink separates with geometric details that soon faded in the spotlight's glare.

Two of the night's biggest saving graces came from Ronaldo Arnaldo and Jerome Ang. I'm not saying this by virtue of default. With or without such bad company, the former's pieces inspired by the colors of hornbills were wearable and decidedly meant for the young.

His use of such tried-and-tested materials as jersey, silk and fancy crepe (in such shades as dark brown, lilac, aqua and magenta) gained a fresher perspective through soft curves, subtle drapes and barely-there bias details.

Ang opted for drama as he drew from vintage Eastern and Western elements such as petticoats and kimono sleeves to fashion Goth and geisha-inspired pieces in black, brown, gray, purple and hints of aqua.

The young designer made use of such materials as organdy, tulle, suede and satin, which he embellished with embroidery, beadwork, hand-painting and strategic perforations. His models wore kabuki-like masks for a dash of drama. (Shades of Inno Sotto's styling? Hmmm.)

Their pieces might have appeared muted, even drab next to Peralta and company's flamboyant creations. But, at least, their clothes showed some semblance of the confidence and maturity that eluded their supposedly more seasoned seniors.

*E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph*

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* JUST SHOP Magazine is out every first Friday of the month and it's given FREE to Inquirer subcribers in Metro Manila. If you want to be a subscriber call 528-0183 or 527-3348.

# French prize

Paris-trained Solenn Heussaff wants to carve her own niche in the rather tight universe of Philippine fashion design

PARIS PAIR. Solenn and her stilettos

Text by Cheche V. Moral
Photos by Wesley Villarica of Parallax Studio

MAKE ROOM, PHILIPPINES: There's a new designer in the house.

No one can really fault Solenn Heussaff for proclaiming her excitement to be back home, all too eager to hone her skills even more and, possibly, establish a career.

"We have a lot of talent here that go to waste because we don't trust ourselves," she notes, "but I do feel the Philippines is a country of great opportunities, and I'm ready to succeed here."

The pretty 20-year-old came back in January after three years in a private design school in Paris called Studio Berçot. Heussaff's dad, Louis Paul, is a French businessman; her mom, Cynthia, a former Bayanihan dancer.

Upon a friend's advice, Heussaff recently made a small collection of clothes, sort of a feeler project for the local market, "to get my name out there," she explains.

The young woman plans to go into ready-to-wear—"casual but classy everyday clothes" that will fuse the sensibilities of Asia and Europe. "Like me!" she adds.

By accident, she also began making shoes, after falling in love with a Marc Jacobs pair, a birthday gift from her parents.

Her less-than-perfect sketches ("I've never really liked drawing shoes when I was in school… I still need to practice") resulted in two striking pairs of earth-toned heels, produced for her by the couture shoe label, John Kenner.

A picture showing drops of water on a soil-colored pavement inspired the first design. "I'm weird that way!" She calls it the "stud shoe," made of suede, snakeskin and silver beads and hoops. She also used suede and leather for the "tongue shoe," inspired by Louis XIV's footwear. (For inquiries, e-mail solennh@gmail.com.)

Heussaff, who started taking art lessons at age 3, says her interest in fashion was influenced by her Filipina *lola* who, she says, was a brilliant pattern maker who did intricate bridal embroideries, and her French *mammy* who knitted clothes for all her seven kids.

## Paris training

The young Heussaff had worked as backstage hand at the Paris Fashion Week and in the showrooms of Dior, Vivienne Westwood, Issey Miyake, Martine Sitbon, getting her fair share of real hard work in the largely unglamorous aspect of the business.

It wasn't much, she now says, "but it was interesting to see all the work up close," meeting the designers though not being allowed to ask them questions, and dreaming that "one day this could be me."

Firsthand, Heussaff learned "secret" haute couture techniques and did actual embroidery for over 300 hours as an intern with Fanny Liautard, a Paris haute couture bridal label.

As if she doesn't already have her hands full, she is now back in school (at the Fashion Institute of the Philippines in Pasig) to study patterns.

"A designer isn't a real designer unless he knows patterns," Heussaff says.

Her Paris program included costume art history; fashion and illustration; even classes on sewing, knitting, embroidery, etc.; and textiles. But the young woman felt the pattern and draping courses were insufficient.

"This is why I decided to go back to school and master pattern." Beginning July, she will also take a yearlong course on draping and more pattern-making at the La Salle College International, a Canadian-based school that has a franchise in Manila.

While Heussaff's wide-eyed enthusiasm can be easily mistaken for the naïveté of her youth, the aspiring designer truly seems to have good intentions at heart.

Many talented Filipinos, she observes, are moving abroad, "and if this continues, there won't be future in this country… Together we can make miracles… If everyone decides to go abroad and one has to be left behind, it will be me because I'm back and here to stay."

Now, who can argue with that?

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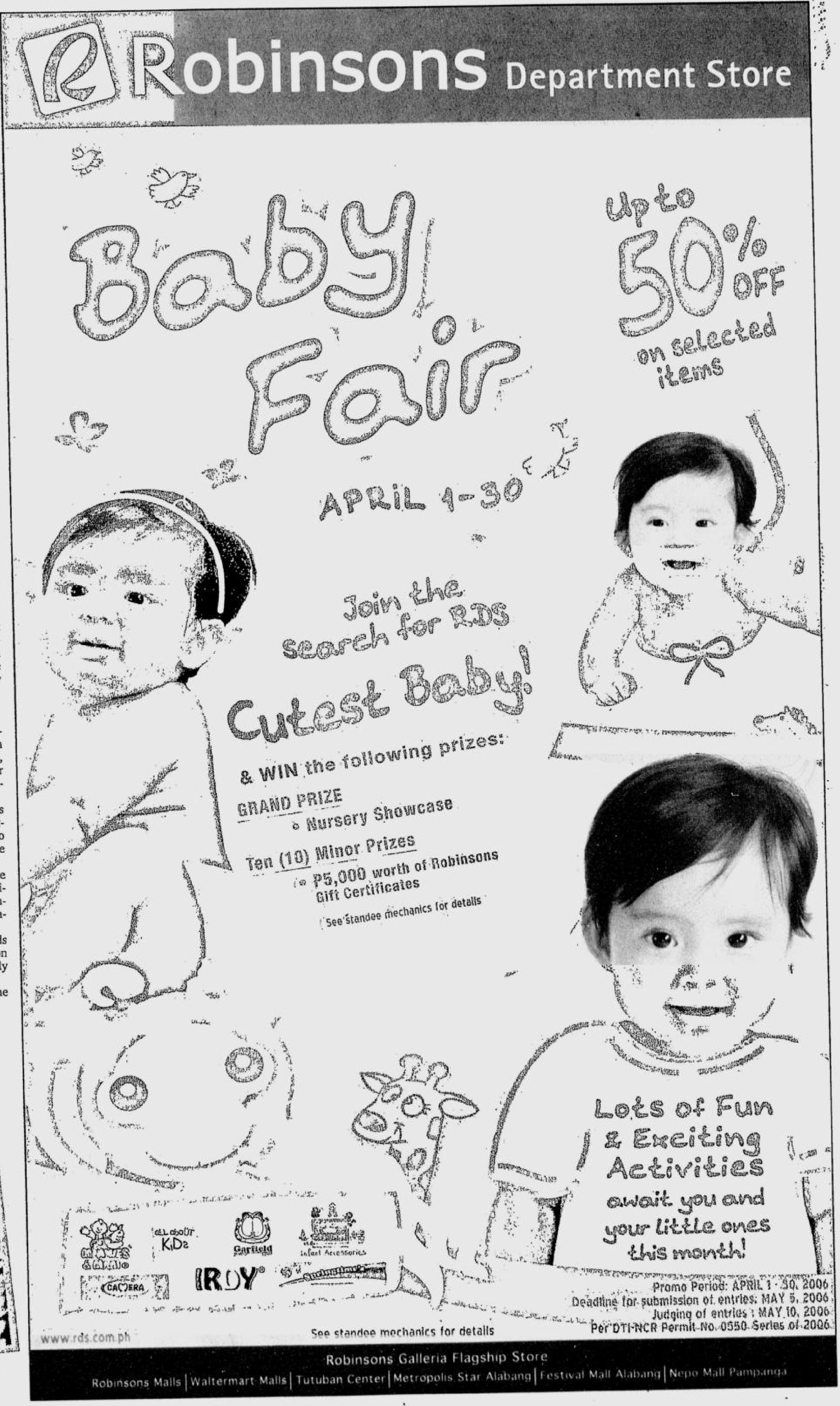

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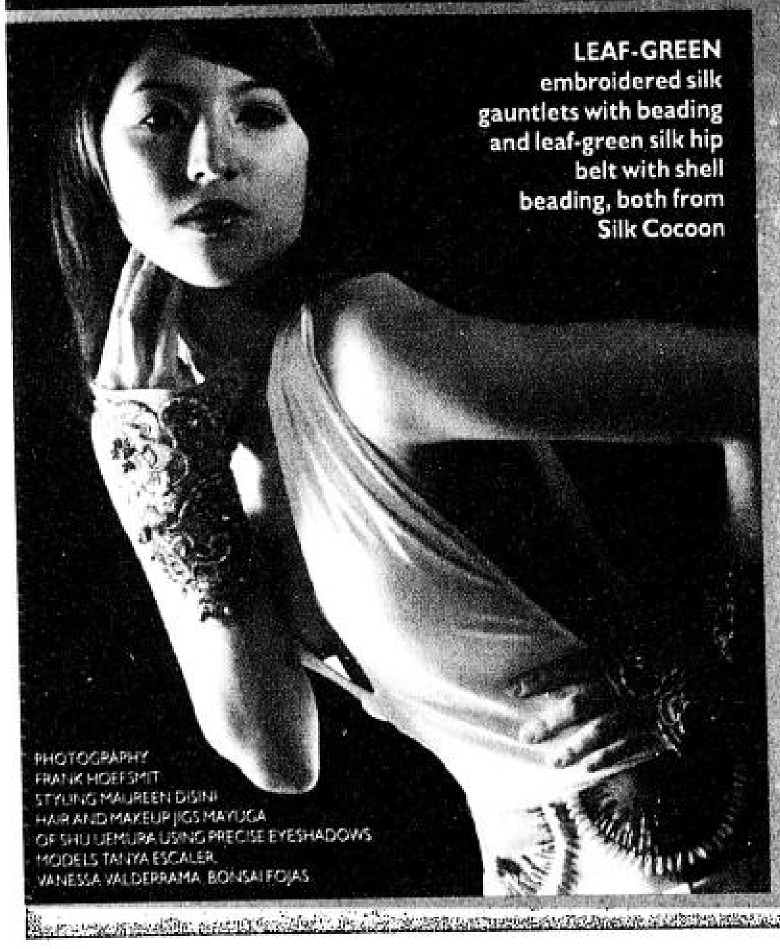
**PEACOCK-BLUE** and violet embroidered silk gauntlets with beading from Silk Cocoon; white maillot from Minx (0917-8460007)

# Cuff it up!

These latest accessories are the perfect little pieces to help you stylize a boring wardrobe



**LEAF-GREEN** embroidered silk gauntlets with beading and leaf-green silk hip belt with shell beading, both from Silk Cocoon

PHOTOGRAPHY FRANK HOEFSMIT
STYLING MAUREEN DISINI
HAIR AND MAKEUP JIGS MAYUGA OF SHU UEMURA USING PRECISE EYESHADOWS
MODELS TANYA ESCALER, VANESSA VALDERRAMA, BONSAI FOJAS

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Silk Cocoon's latest innovative accessories are divine embroidered gauntlet-like beaded cuffs and belts. They are the perfect little pieces to help you stylize a boring wardrobe. They're also all you need to add a splash of color to your summer whites.

The ornamental cuffs can easily dress up a casual outfit or accentuate a more formal look. You can even wear them with jeans and a simple tee or white shirt. What's more, they can add flair to any article of clothing, from a long-sleeved knit top, a simple bustier or camisole to the classic white shirt.

The equally exquisite embellished sashes are also a much welcome spin on the ubiquitous belt. You can opt to wear them obi-style to emphasize the waist or around the hips for a more modern look. If you're into a bit of drama and are currently channeling your inner maiden, you can wear them high on the waist or empire-style for a more period feel.

It might take a bit of derring-do to don these stand out accessories but if you're adventurous enough, you'll definitely have some fashion-fun playing chivalrous knight or medieval maiden.

*E-mail the author at afashion@inquirer.com.ph*

**APPLES' PICKINGS**

**Apples Aberin-Sadhwani**

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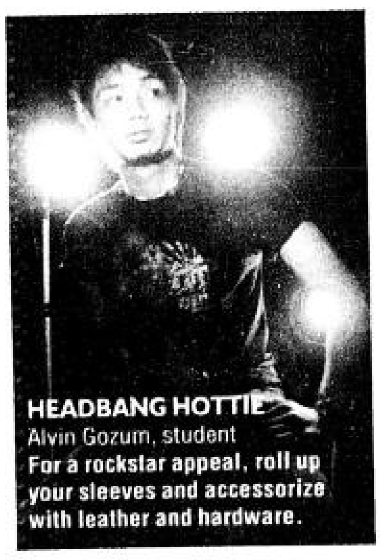
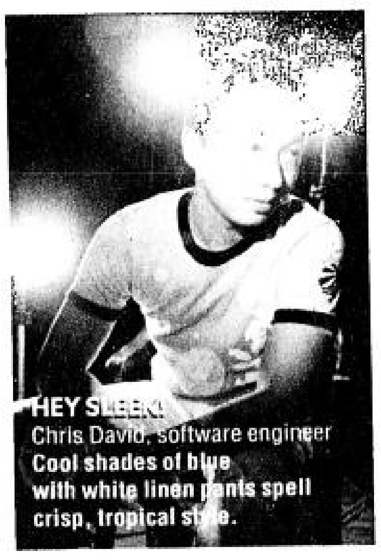
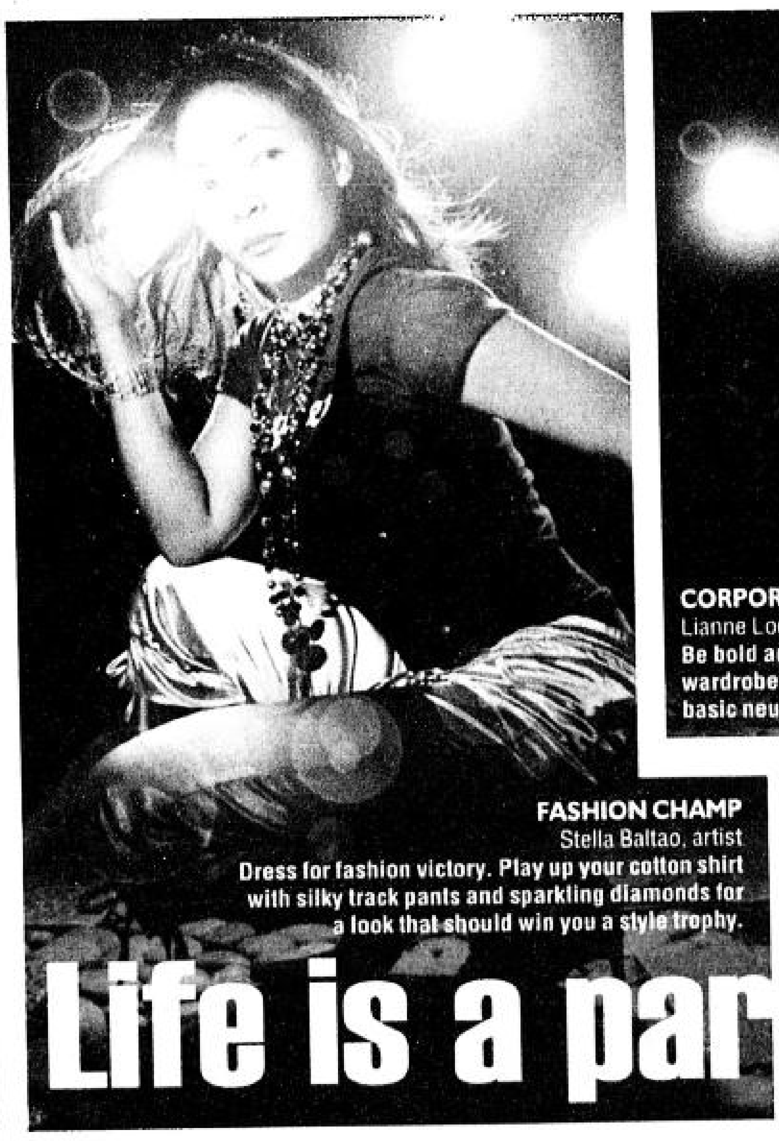


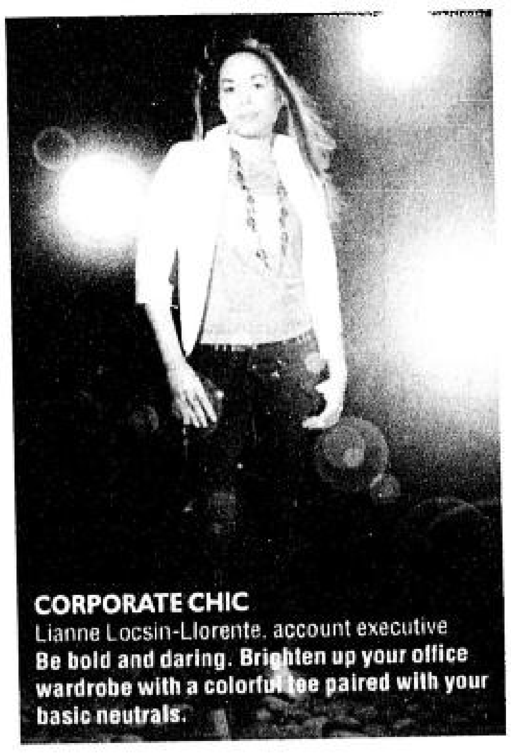
**HEADBANG HOTTIE**
Alvin Gozum, student
**For a rockstar appeal, roll up your sleeves and accessorize with leather and hardware.**



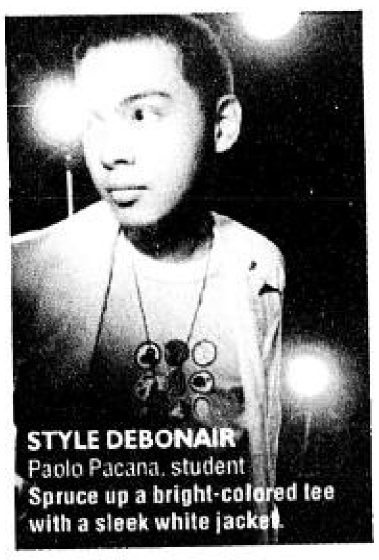
**HEY SLEEK!**
Chris David, software engineer
**Cool shades of blue with white linen pants spell crisp, tropical style.**



**FASHION CHAMP**
Stella Baltao, artist
**Dress for fashion victory. Play up your cotton shirt with silky track pants and sparkling diamonds for a look that should win you a style trophy.**



**CORPORATE CHIC**
Lianne Locsin-Llorente, account executive
**Be bold and daring. Brighten up your office wardrobe with a colorful tee paired with your basic neutrals.**



**STYLE DEBONAIR**
Paolo Pacana, student
**Spruce up a bright-colored tee with a sleek white jacket.**

**LADIES' CLUB**
Mela Raymundo, account manager
**Layer a funky tee with a delicate sweater and polished pearls for a look that's feminine yet quirky.**

**PREP MASTER**
Randy Dizon, entrepreneur
**Layering is key!**

**UPTOWN FLAIR**
Karen Bitanga, preschool teacher
**Add a touch of elegance to a cotton shirt by dressing it up with a brocade trench coat.**

# Life is a par-tee

Summer's sweltering vibe adds extra heat to the party scene. Soft cotton T-shirts from Molecules and Particles find its way into this season's list of party must-haves

**By Kat Cruz**
*Contributor*
**Photos by Dix**

SCHOOL IS FINALLY OUT. While others enjoy their magna cum laude, summa cum laude or loyalty awards, you're just happy to have survived school with whatever shirt you could find on top of the heap, plus your worn-out jeans.

But gone are the days of classroom-friendly but absentmindedly put-together outfits, because it's summer! These days, the only bell you're going to hear is the chime of a full-blown party call.

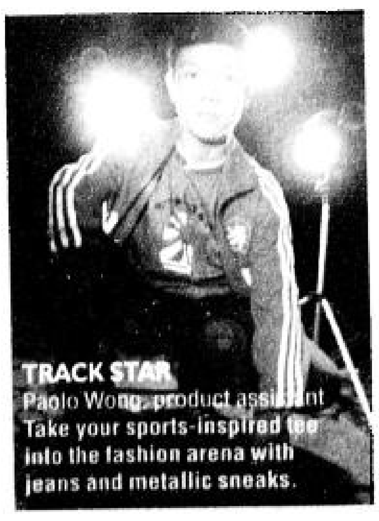
Gear up as you set shores, your poolside or your neighbor's backyard ablaze. Party dressing summer mode is all about comfort and style.

Hold on tight to your favorite tee but let your prized pair of jeans walk by itself to the clothes bin (it's already stiff from all the dirt it's gathered since the last time you had it washed). Trade it in for flirty skirts or sexy shorts that are ultimate must-haves for this season. Get creative and match up the blinding rays of the sun with dazzling jewels and flashy shoes to add blazing appeal to your staple tee.

Stuck in summer school or doomed with a dress code? Channel the Mean Girls or Elle Woods of "Legally Blonde."

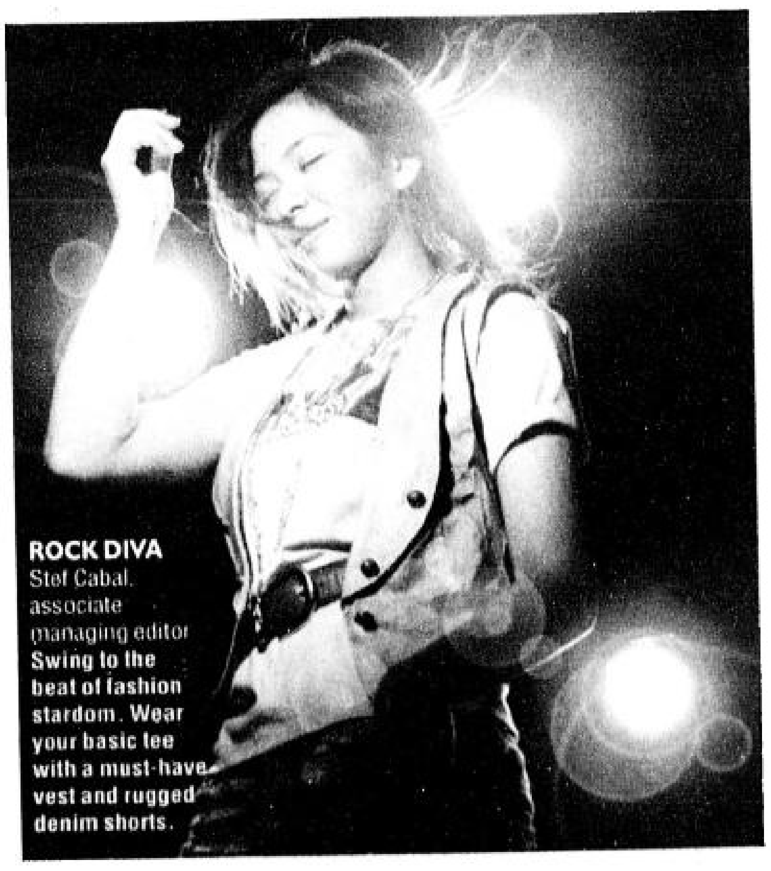
Life, after all, in spite of all nuisance and impediments, should still be as fun and colorful as you want it to be.

**SUMMER COOL**
Kimi Bitanga, student
**[illegible] beach-bound [illegible] with your favorite tee layered with [illegible] polo.**



**TRACK STAR**
Paolo Wong, product assistant
**Take your sports-inspired tee into the fashion arena with jeans and metallic sneaks.**

**TREND SPOTTING**
Mika Benipayo, student
**Play up your outfit with eye-popping colors.**



**ROCK DIVA**
Stef Cabal, associate managing editor
**Swing to the beat of fashion stardom. Wear your basic tee with a must-have vest and rugged denim shorts.**

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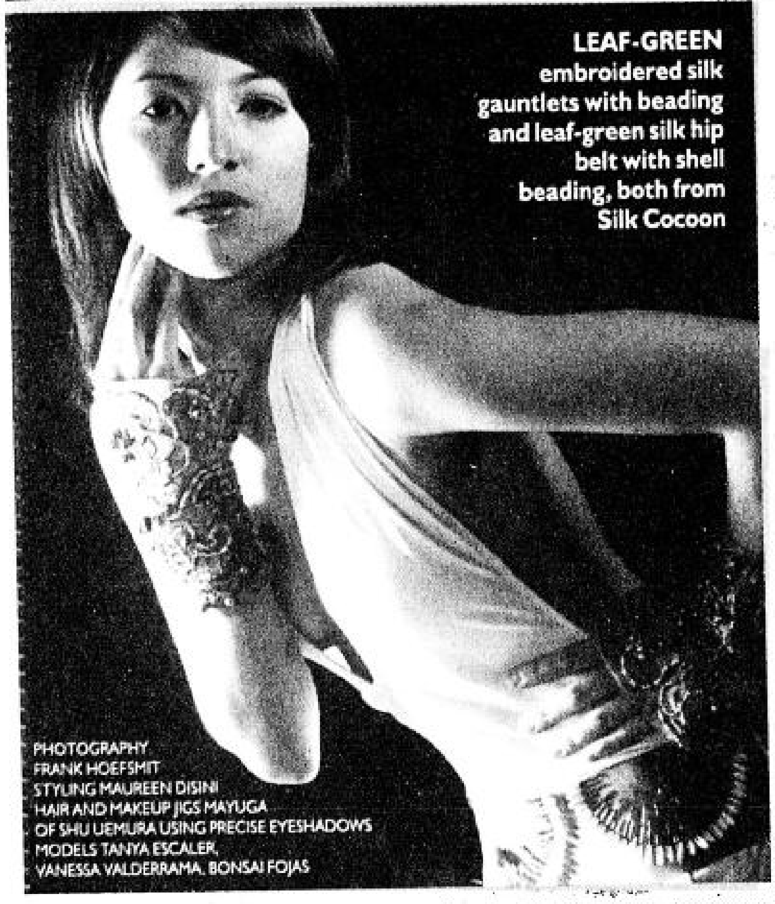

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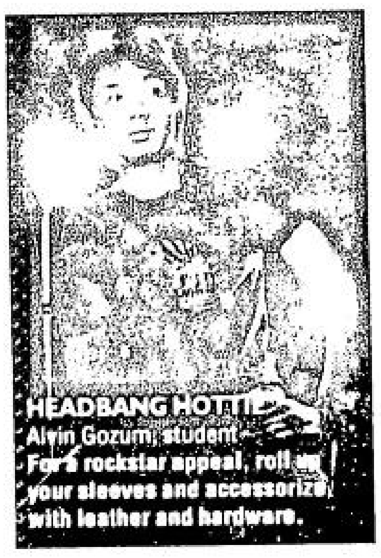

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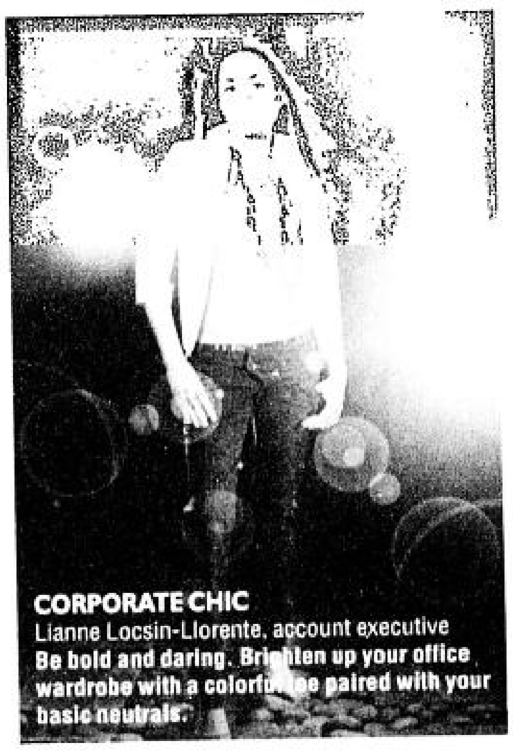
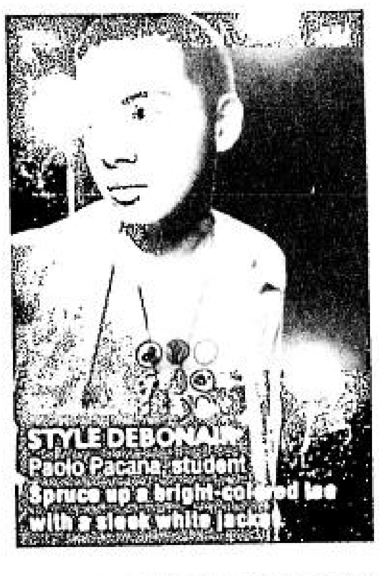
Cool shades of blue [illegible] with white linen pants spell crisp, tropical [illegible]

**FASHION CHAMP**
Stella Baltao, artist
Dress for fashion victory. Play up your cotton shirt with silky track pants and sparkling diamonds for a look that should win you a [illegible]



**CORPORATE CHIC**
Lianne Locsin-Llorente, account executive
Be bold and daring. Brighten up your office wardrobe with a colorful tee paired with your basic neutrals.



**STYLE DEBONAIR**
Paolo Pacana, student
Spruce up a bright-colored tee with a sleek white jacket.

# Life is a par-tee

**LADIES' CLUB**
Mela Ray[illegible], account manager
Layer a funky tee with a delicate sweater and polished pearls for a look that's feminine yet quirky.

**PREP MASTER**
Randy Dizon, entrepreneur
Layering is key!

**UPTOWN FLAIR**
Karen Bitanga, preschool teacher
Add a touch of elegance to a cotton shirt by dressing it up with a brocade trench coat.

Summer's sweltering vibe adds extra heat to the party scene. Soft cotton T-shirts from Molecules and Particles find its way into this season's list of party must-haves

By Kat Cruz
*Contributor*
**Photos by Dix**

SCHOOL IS FINALLY OUT. While others enjoy their magna cum laude, summa cum laude or loyalty awards, you're just happy to have survived school with whatever shirt you could find on top of the heap, plus your worn-out jeans.

But gone are the days of classroom-friendly but absentmindedly put-together outfits, because it's summer! These days, the only bell you're going to hear is the chime of a full-blown party call.

Gear up as you set shores, your poolside or your neighbor's backyard ablaze. Party dressing summer mode is all about comfort and style.

Hold on tight to your favorite tee but let your prized pair of jeans walk by itself to the clothes bin (it's already stiff from all the dirt it's gathered since the last time you had it washed). Trade it in for flirty skirts or sexy shorts that are ultimate must-haves for this season. Get creative and match up the blinding rays of the sun with dazzling jewels and flashy shoes to add blazing appeal to your staple tee.

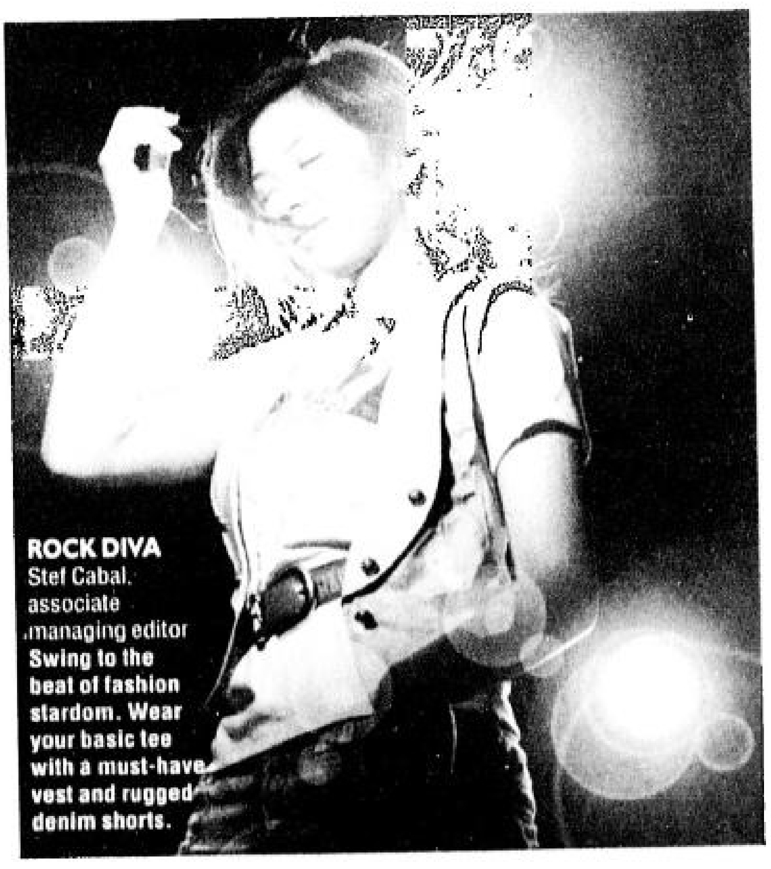
Stuck in summer school or doomed with a dress code? Channel the Mean Girls or Elle Woods of "Legally Blonde."

Life, after all, in spite of all nuisance and impediments, should still be as fun and colorful as you want it to be.

**SUMMER COOL**
Kim Bitanga, student
[illegible] bound [illegible] favorite tee layered with [illegible] pole.

**TRACK STAR**
Paolo Wong, product assistant
Take your sports-inspired [illegible] into the fashion arena with jeans and metallic sneaks.

**TREND SPOTTING**
Mika Benip[illegible], student
[illegible] up your [illegible] eye-[illegible] shorts.



**ROCK DIVA**
Stef Cabal, associate managing editor
Swing to the beat of fashion stardom. Wear your basic tee with a must-have vest and rugged denim shorts.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

**NEW YORKER** orange sherbet chiffon; chocolate and ivory striped bikini; Kate Spade white and zebra printed shades; gold leather and rope Prada sandals; coral bangles and ring

**KNIT SAILOR TOP** from Culte Femme; deliberately mismatched earrings, House of Laurel; tan and white monogram sandals from Louis Vuitton; Topshop bikini, model's own; white rubber bag from Kate Spade

PHOTOGRAPHY VICTOR CONSUNJI
MAKEUP ABBYGALE ARENAS FOR LANCÔME SUMMER COLLECTION, "THE ENCHANTRESS."
HAIRSTYLE BORGE ALOBA FOR L'OREAL PROFESSIONNEL
MODEL CIARA SEVILLA
SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR TEEN MODELS BASTI AND NIKO UCHICO, MATTHEW, JAY AND JAYMI LAUREL AND CHRIS IMPERIAL

# Caftan VS Nautical

## Take your pick this hot, hot season

**By Leica R. Carpo**
*Contributor*

ONLY SPORTS ILLUSTRATED and FHM calendar models can plead ignorance on the importance of covering up one's exposed limbs on the beach.

Every "non-bikini model" knows that the choice of one's beach cover should be as strategically planned as a successful war campaign. For not only does the perfect beach cover disguise a multitude of dietary sins, but when chosen and worn properly, can even help snare one's ideal mate.

Most beach cover-ups fall into two basic schools of style: glam or relaxed.

The hot look to try this season for all you glamour queens is the "Boho luxe."

Consider a flowing caftan in rich sunset or beach tones, subtly beaded for serious sparkle.

Accessorize the look with vintage shades or huge designer aviators. Top this look off with a matching designer scarf to protect hair and add the "oomph" factor.

Unfortunately, this is one beach outfit where your fave Havaianas just won't cut it. Better bets are jeweled thongs or metallic Roman-style sandals with lace-up.

Sophisticated and powerful, this look is a surefire head-turner requiring loads of confidence to carry off. But fair warning for minimalists and wallflowers attempting this look sans supervision from a fashion-plate buddy: A bad attempt at this look could easily translate you from Italian film star into a nightmare mother-in-law.

For the more laid-back beach babes, the new cool look to try is the "nautical preppie." Not as overtly seductive as the Boho luxe, this look works best for gym bunnies though six packs are not mandatory.

Pull this look off by combining striped tees, crisp white shorts and rope accessories. Ideal for the girl-next-door type.

But fashionistas should resist the urge to go overboard with too many "sailing" references (i.e. rope necklace, anchor patches and, dare if you will, a sailor hat) unless the goal is to look like a first mate in "Love Boat."

## WHERE TO SCORE

### BOHO LUXE

Bohemian looks range from Asian island chic to French Riviera glam. Look for exotic prints, vintage materials and elaborate beading. Culling second-hand stores and going through bazaars is a good way to find funky pieces in great prices.

New Yorker boutique on Pasay Road is a haven for unique vintage outfits, from chic caftans to made-to-order ball gowns. It specializes in beading as well as retro pieces for all occasions.

House of Laurel in Palma Village carries chiffon and stretch outfits cut into sexy, wearable feminine pieces in every color with accessories to match. Get your money's worth from each item as the friendly and knowledgeable staff are chock full of stylish tips on how to maximize the look of each piece.

Kate Spade in Greenbelt 3 carries brightly hued and quaintly pretty shoes and bags to add Uptown glam to your beach getup.

Prada in Greenbelt 3 never fails to make one salivate on key wardrobe pieces season after season, from "It" hand bags to to-die-for shoes. Splurge on its quality craftsmanship and striking designs. You can always resale after.

Mix carries everything from dainty Tracy Reese tops to a mouthwatering denim collection. Accessories range from vintage watches to Puma trainers. If you're looking to add downtown chic to your wardrobe, you can't miss this yummy mix.

### NAUTICAL NUMBERS

Look for canvas, rope, stripes in sailing colors (navy, red, yellow, green) mixed with crisp white or cream. The nautical look is a fun, popular trend that can become a wardrobe classic if not taken too literally.

At Culte Femme in Rustan's, you are guaranteed to find the perfect "date dress" as well as the ideal beach cover-up. Inspired by Parisian chic, this boutique is a sure hit for the sophisticated femme fatale.

Most brands are cashing in on the fun and easy-to-wear summer trend. From Topshop to Bench, there is a striped tee or sailor-inspired pants to fit your size and budget. But if you've got some spare change to blow and want to add that extra touch, try Louis Vuitton Globe trotter bags in canvas or Bottega Veneta's new canvas and leather bags bordered in primary colors.

**BEAUTY TIPS:**

Makeup by Abbygale Arenas for Lancôme. Summer Collection, "The Enchantress." Minimal makeup looks best with amazing lashes. Try L'extreme mascara from Lancôme.

Hair styled by Borge Aloba for L'Oreal Professionnel. Use Tec ni art Hot Style Constructor to get that perfect beach hair look; Spritz on Tec ni art finishing spray for that weightless un-sticky hold; and Tec ni Art Liss control serum to keep fly-aways in place and to add shine.

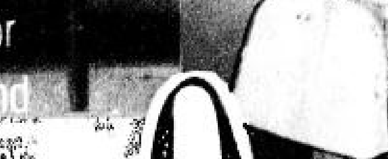
# A Muse of a tale

LINDSAY Lohan

AMIRA Casar

The YSL Muse is the kind of bag people will be waxing poetic about for years and ever after

INES Ribeiro



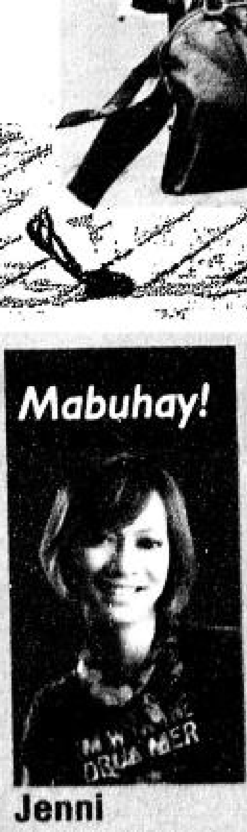
KATE Moss

ONCE UPON A TIME, IN THE land of croissants, berets and generally nasal voices, the fashion gods debated on which bag to bless. This season, it's the YSL Muse bag.

It's the type of bag that you'd either love or have your mother buy. It has a classic silhouette (to some, bordering on matronic). But [illegible] Kate Moss and Amira Casar to give this classic-looking bag a strong street vibe, making the hip set line up to snap up the latest Muse.

An elegant leather beauty, subtle [illegible] for those in the know (kind of like saying [illegible] I need not scream [illegible] golden hardware (from engraved [illegible] shoulder strap snaps), dainty metal [illegible] the bottom [illegible] you will [illegible] carrying her everywhere.

[illegible]



*Mabuhay!*

**Jenni Epperson**

[illegible] self-confessed YSL fanatic Lindsay Lohan (she said she has five pieces of YSL), Wisteria Lane resident Nicollette Sheridan and ageless Demi Moore. Launched with the 2005 Cruise Collection, it's the toast of tinseltown.

For its second season, the Muse Bag is expanding its palette, adding olive and brick-red versions to the original black, chocolate and ivory leather. Metal hardware in antique silver, light bronze, silver, light gold and frosted brown hues will now adorn this new iconic Yves Saint Laurent creation.

YSL designer Stefano Pilati has now made the handbag even more luxurious with [illegible] in shades of tobacco, hazelnut and ivory and crocodile leather in black, grey and vanilla.

A more casual canvas version in beige, chocolate, khaki and sand is available for the summer—a perfect addition to your already sizzling summer style. Worn by the world's most beautiful women, the Muse Bag has started a new city chic trend. It's good [illegible] of them now, and it will outlive us all.

Available in three sizes (medium, large, [illegible]) at the YSL Boutique in Greenbelt [illegible] the Muse can be hand-held, worn over the shoulder or carried under [illegible] beautifully [illegible] on your way to your favorite ladies-who-lunch destination.

Take your cool club level a notch higher. This season, Stefano Pilati has added a fourth dimension: the Muse bag now comes in [illegible] practical and trendy during the day and bombastic in the evening.

[illegible] all the rage and now with all the versions available, you can be certain that the chic will be clamoring for one [illegible]

[illegible]

E-mail [illegible]@inquirer.com.ph

DEMI Moore

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*Editor* **Chelo Banal-Formoso**
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Ria Francisco-Prieto
E- mail me at rbeauty@inquirer.com.ph

# LIFESTYLE

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# BEAUTY

## Fashion Week shimmers

IT'S THAT TIME OF THE YEAR AGAIN when fashion is foremost on everyone's mindS, and beauty in all its fabulous guises takes center stage. The brainchild of the country's fashion forerunners Joey and Audie Espino, Philippine Fashion Week has been instrumental in driving the country's fashion industry and helping increase the fashion quotient of the Philippine public these past nine years, showcasing the latest trends and timeless pieces from both established and upcoming designers from all over the country.

**KNOCKOUT!**

**Ria Francisco-Prieto**

Making this year's fashion extravaganza more vibrant is Avon Color, the official makeup sponsor of Philippine Fashion Week '06. I had the chance to go backstage and witness all the glamorous goings-on firsthand!

Friday afternoons at The Fort are often laidback and relaxed—with party people arriving well after office hours—but on this particular afternoon, backstage at the NBC Tent, a whirlwind of activity and excitement took place as early as 3 p.m. in preparations for the week's opening salvo, EsAC's celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Fashion Designers Association of the Philippines (FDAP).

Racks upon racks of couture creations lined the makeshift dressing rooms, while gorgeous models were fitted with their ensembles. They strutted their stuff for the dry run, or (my personal favorite!) began hair and makeup preparations.

Because makeup is an essential part of every fashionable woman's total image, Philippine Fashion Week 06 tapped the

FASHION/ E2

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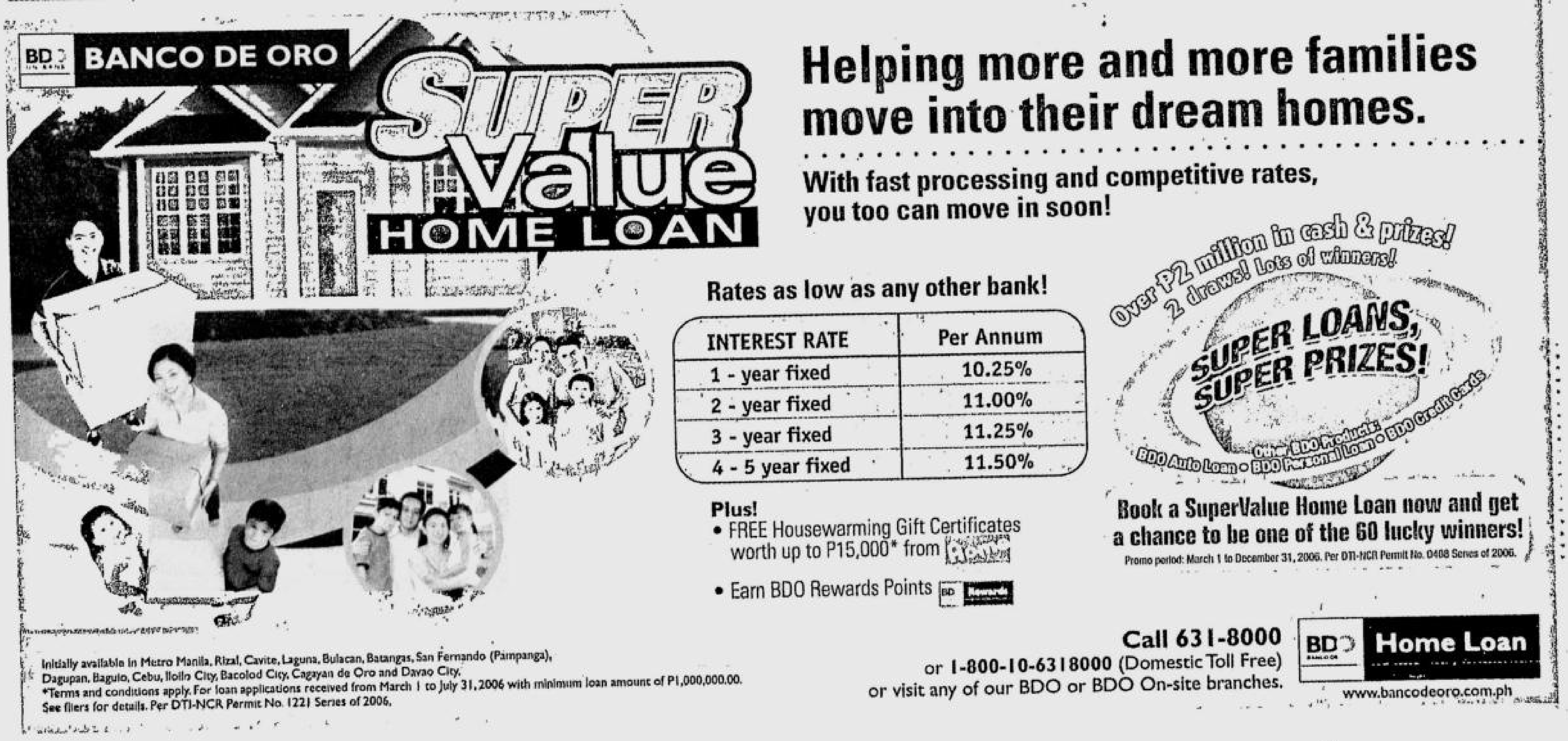

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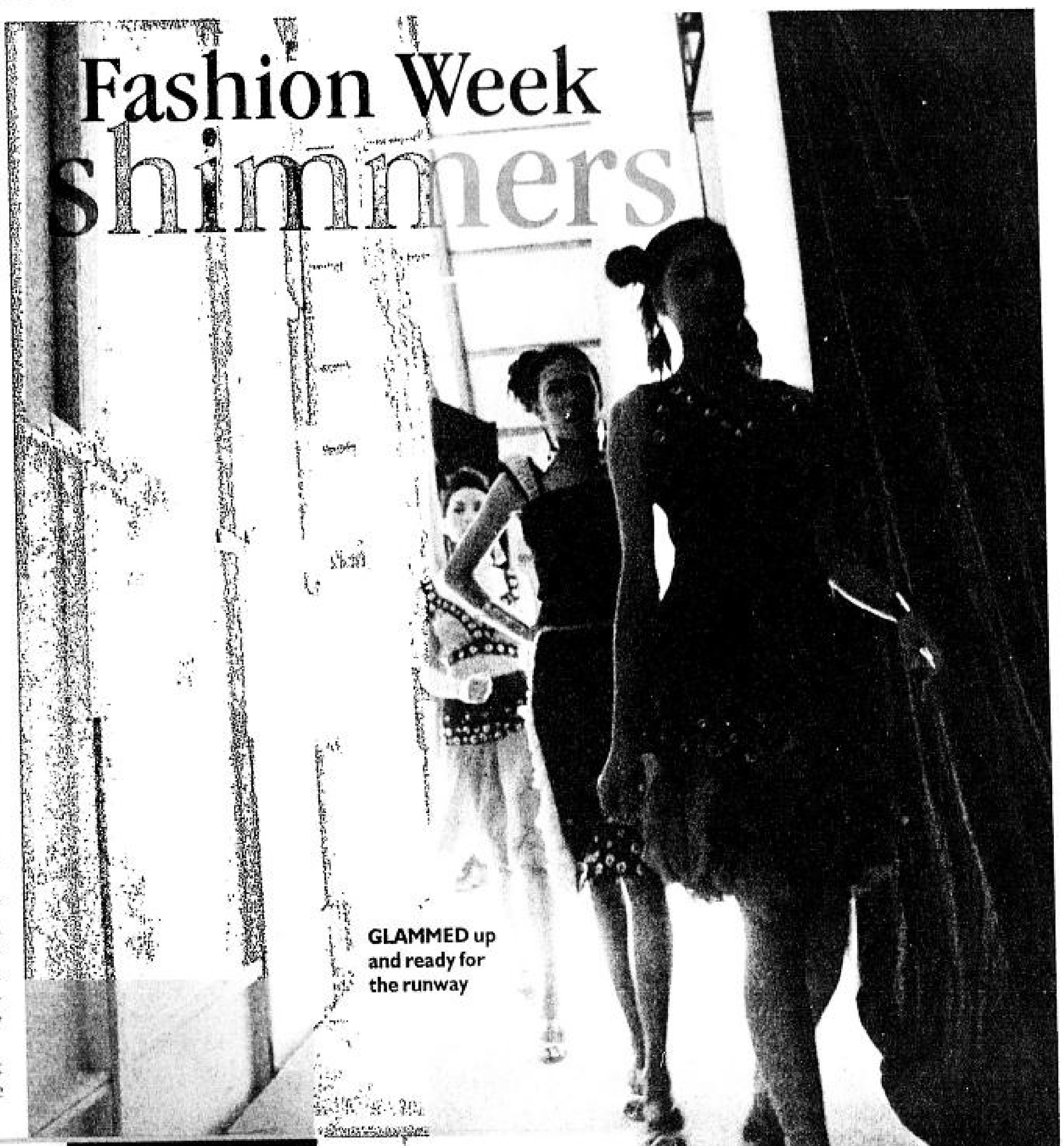
# Fashion Week shimmers



**GLAMMED** up and ready for the runway

From page E1

country's top makeup artists to create and execute the "look" of each show.

EsAC's gala celebration of the 25th anniversary of the FDAP was placed in the capable hands of Jingky Ilusorio and his creative team.

With 27 designers showcasing over a hundred ensembles ranging from sexy swimwear to intricate evening gowns, Ilusorio was tasked to create a look that would stand out during both casual and formal occasions.

"The first thing that people notice are the eyes and lips, and good makeup should always highlight these features," said Ilusorio. Dark eyes and luscious lips are a classic stunner, and easy to achieve with Avon Color's extensive line of eye shadows and lipsticks.

Ilusorio mixed and blended the Taupe and Steel shades from the Lilac Dream and Deepest Rose eye shadow quads for that smoky look. For red lips, the creative team turned to Avon Beyond Color Plumping Lipcolor in Chili and Avon Color Ultra Rich Color Lipstick in Rich Rose. The results were indeed a smash hit on the runway, where the models' made-up faces drew attention to—and not away from—the showcased pieces.

## Goddesses and divas

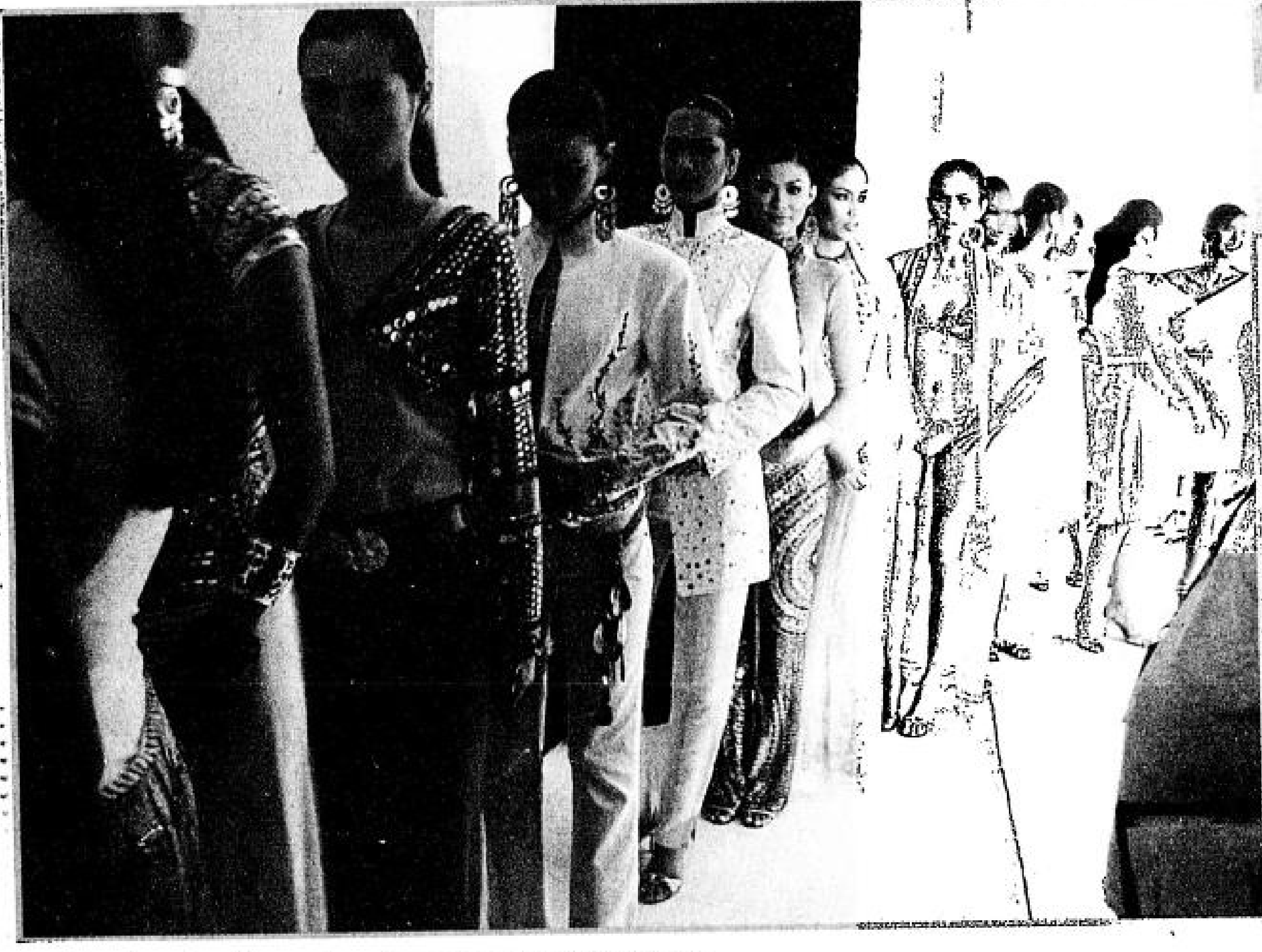
Saturday afternoon saw the premiere of Rajo Laurel's much-awaited 2006 collection, with celebrities, socialites and other prominent personalities filling the front-row seats. The show started fashionably late, but was well worth the wait as far as Rajo's fans were concerned.

Statuesque models donning lean and sexy yet elaborately embellished silhouettes in shades of bone, brown and black were applauded as they walked down the runway. Equally eye-catching were the Arnel Papa accessories accenting each outfit: bold, chunky pieces in gold, wood, and even *capiz*!

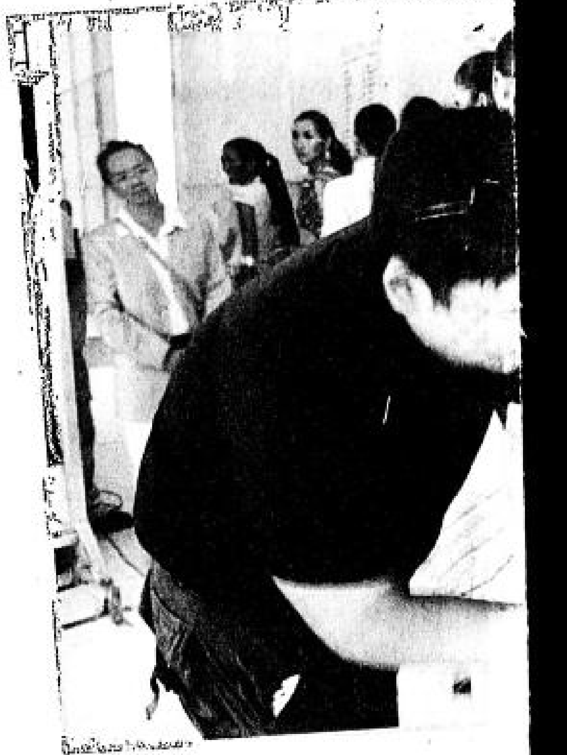
Gela Laurel, Rajo's sister and makeup artist of choice, and Eric Maningat were in charge of turning the models into bronzed beauties. "I wanted to take the natural beauty of the tanned Filipina and glam it up a notch," said Gela, who used Avon Color Personal Match Dual Powder Foundation in Almond and Personal Match Natural Loose Face Powder in Natural to give the skin an even, flawless glow.

Maningat, on the other hand, played up the girls' naturally luscious lips with Avon Color Shine Supreme in Twig Glaze and Glimmersticks Lip Liner in Pink Bouquet. He enhanced their eyes with Avon Color Astonishing Lengths Waterproof Mascara and True Color Eye Shadow Quad in Deepest Rose. "This gives them a bronzy, smoky shimmer," he said.

Later that night, upcoming designers invaded the runway for the Sony Ericsson Power Generation Forecast and New Generation Collection. For fashion-forward mavens and stylish trendsetters, the young designers are always worth watching with their creative innovations that breathe new life into the in-



**YOUR** makeup should complement your look, as with these girls.



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# Get that fashionably fresh lo

**FOUR-PALETTE** eye shadow for a day-to-night look

**LIPSTICK** with moisturizer for an easy glide

**GLOSS** for a fuller pout

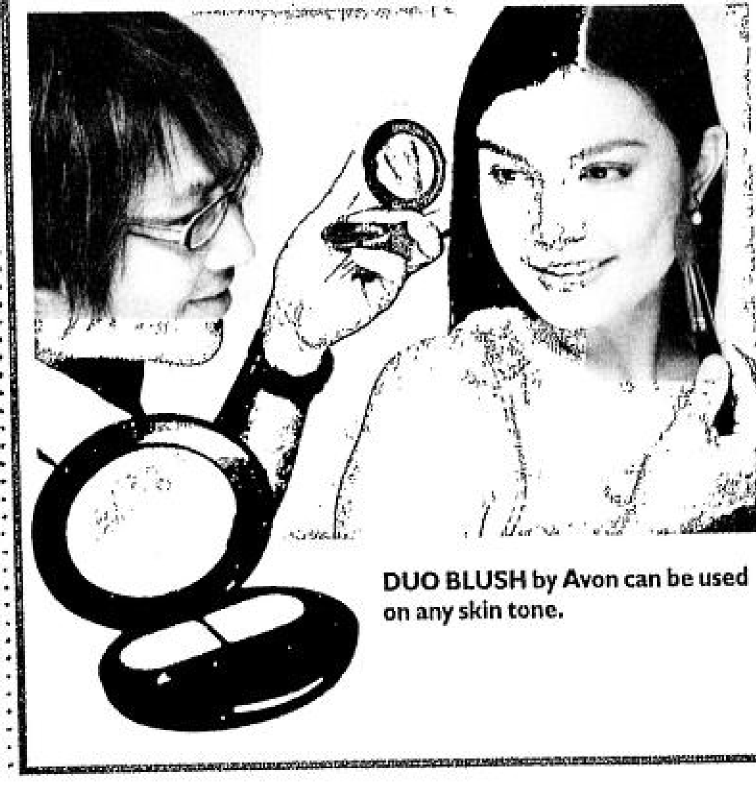
THE SWELTERING SUMMER HEAT IS NO EXCUSE for not looking your best. Having a fresh, natural look is the perfect way to stay cool all summer long, and is easy to achieve.

Top makeup artist Toto Bagamasbad and Miss Avon 2005 Jaylyn Diquiatco shows us how to get that fabulously fresh look. (Photographs by Dominique James).

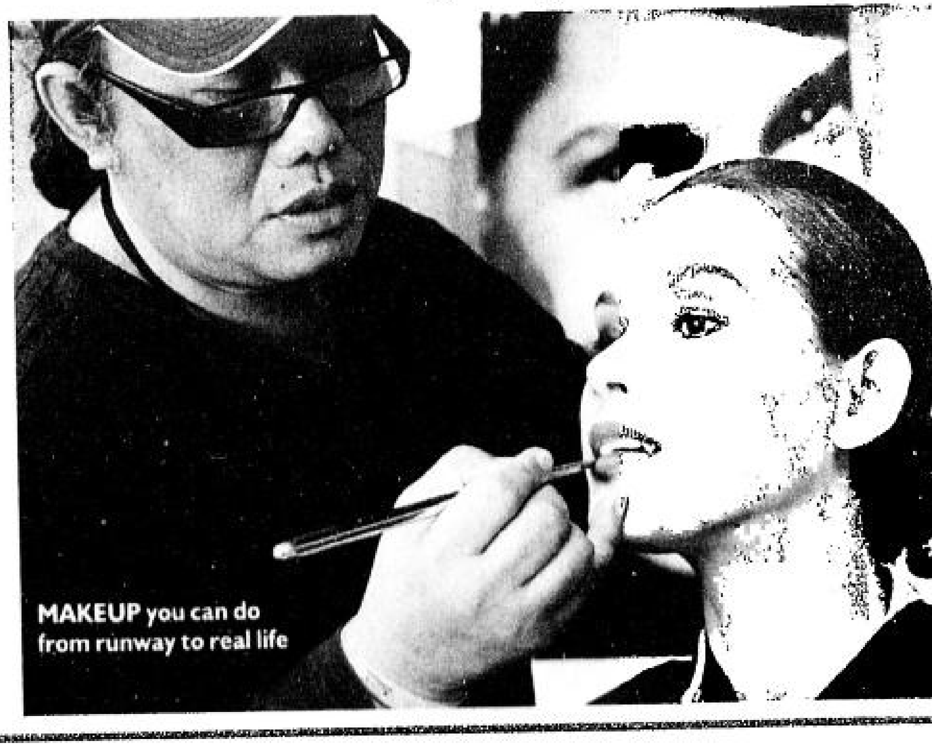
1. To keep your eyes looking fresh all day, add a touch of cool color to your eyelids with Avon True Color Quad Eye Shadow in Lilac Dream.

2. Sun-kissed cheeks are the mark of true summer beauty. Use Avon True Color Powder Blush Duo in Peaches/Corals to enhance your natural glow. Remember that blush application differs with face shape. Applying blush directly on the cheekbones best enhances long face shapes, while square faces are softened when blush is applied on the side of the cheekbones. And for round faces, the best place to apply blush is just under the cheekbones.

3. Lightweight, gorgeous shades bring out one's natural beauty. For sheer color and luscious shine, try Avon Color Sheer Nourishment Lip Color in Peach Dazzle, topped off with Shine Supreme Lip Color in Glossy Rose.



**DUO BLUSH** by Avon can be used on any skin tone.



**MAKEUP** you can do from runway to real life

RAJO at work

dustry.

And indeed, the show was characterized by modern takes on vintage looks, ingenious use of native materials, and precision construction.

As the show also showcased the latest Walkman phones from Sony Ericsson, chief stylist Toto Bagamasbad derived creative inspiration from the music industry. "The girls will be sashaying down the catwalk accompanied by funky beats, so I want their makeup to channel the great disco divas of the 1970s."

Bagamasbad brought back the glam look of yesteryears with purple-lidded eyes and berry-stained cheeks made possible by Avon Color True Color Eye Shadow Quad in Lilac Dream and True Color Powder Blush Duo in Berry/Wine, topping it off with the smooth shine of Avon Color Shine Supreme Lip Color in Lustrous Berry and Sparkling Wine.

### Fresh and fabulous

Sunday was my third day observing the behind-the-scenes action of Philippine Fashion Week '06. I thought I had the routine down pat, so I was pleasantly surprised to see new faces waiting in the wings. As it turned out, Avon invited the winners of their first-ever beauty pageant to watch the afternoon show.

They were backstage taking a closer look at all the preparation that went into the staging of Philippine Fashion Week 06's Premiere Collection B featuring Alex Pigao, Lyle Ibañez and Raoul Ramirez. With Avon Color, Bagamasbad created the fresh-faced look for the three designers, which was accented by shimmery eyes and rosy cheeks.

All three designers showcased collections that reflected various facets of summer. Pigao's gowns were obviously inspired by the beach, with creatively constructed pieces that alluded to the seaside's slinky fishnets and sinuous waves. Ibañez, on the other hand, presented a luxurious yet casual collection—with a cool color palette of grays, blues and greens—that would surely help cosmopolitan women beat the summer heat. And, lastly, Ramirez took the shine of summer days and translated it into high fashion for hot summer nights, with metallic hues and oh-so-chic silver lace.

Indeed, watching any of the shows presented at Philippine Fashion Week is enough to inspire even the most naïve of fashion ingénues to become style stars. I can't wait to try out all these exciting new looks in fashion and makeup!

**LAST-MINUTE** touches are crucial.

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# Colorful enhancements

The key word is natural, and all you need is a sheer wash of color via sheer or glossy lipstick

**LAURA Mercier Liquid Crystal Lip Glaze in pink quartz**

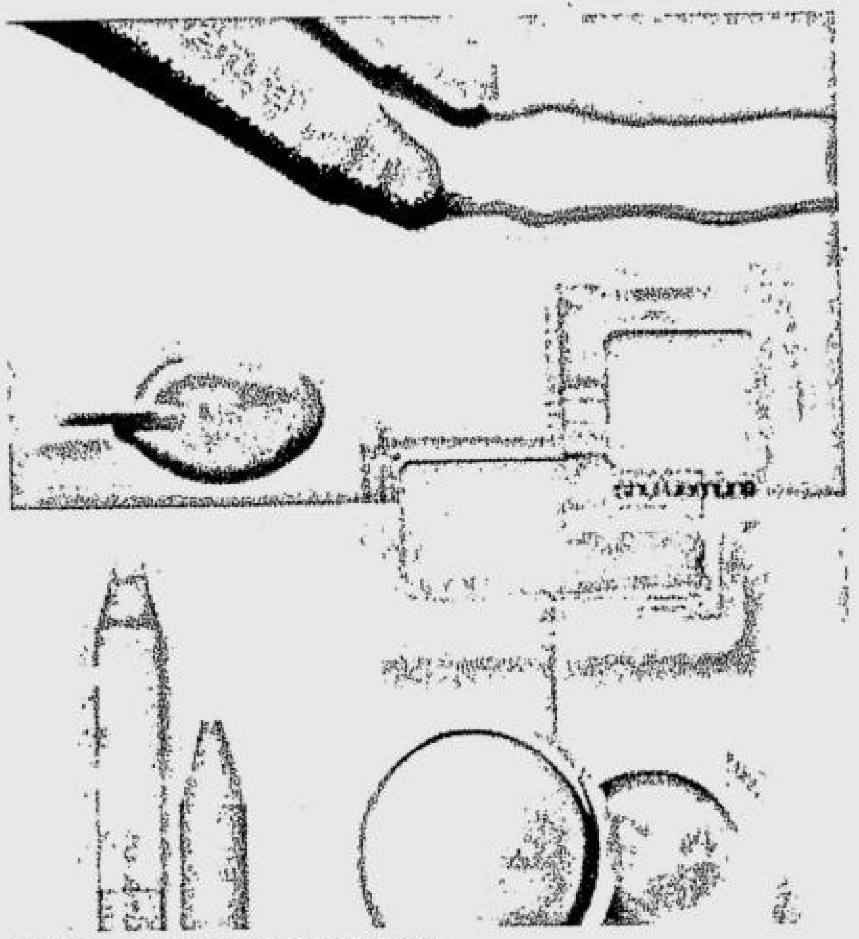
**REVLON Love That Pink blush**

MAKEUP IS NOT A NECESSITY, I AM aware of that. For spring/summer I feel that what is more important is taking care of the basics like good skin and healthy hair.

### MAKEOVER 911

*Kinny Salas*

I have postponed writing about the spring 2006 collection of makeup brands because it might push beauty addicts like me to the financial brink. Here, they will be presented not by brand but by category. I will also make my choice picks. Of course, this doesn't mean you shouldn't check the selection yourself and see what will suit you and your needs more. These are merely guidelines.



**SHU Uemura Sweet Mode Spring 2006**

## Lips

The key word is natural and enhanced. All you need is a sheer wash of color via sheer lipsticks or very shiny and slightly tinted gloss. A surprise product that got me the most compliments was Shu Uemura's Sweet Lip Gloss in Lavender, which gave my pale, chapped lips a subtle and very even-toned and natural mauve pink tint while hydrating it when worn alone and corrects the color of lipsticks that are too orange.

Art Deco lipsticks in natural shine 155 (P479.75) is a pearlized pink beige shade that looks fabulous alone on pale skin or paired with dark smokey eyes for most skin colors. It's a sexy moist nude, but make sure the lips are free of any dryness or flakes before applying because the shimmer emphasizes the flakes.

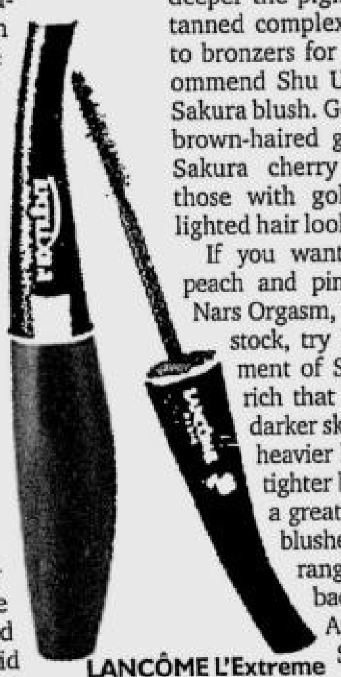
Lancôme's Juicy Tubes are consistent best sellers. I am partial to violet or bluish shades. Laura Mercier's liquid crystals in pink quartz (golden rose) or citrine (tangerine gold) makes lips look seriously fuller. In the bottle you see a jewel-like mixture of colors like quartz, but the effect on the lips is extremely sexy. Lips are hydrated but the color lasts and fades evenly. Using it daily has actually improved the condition of my very dry lips.

## Eyes

The best mascaras for me, hands down, are Lancome's L'Extreme, which gives the appearance of longer lashes without clumping, and Awake Roll Curl Mascara, which when applied right, will curl the most stubborn of lashes. It's very waterproof so no amount of sweat and even slight oiliness can make it smear.

Those who feel their lashes can never be thick or long enough should try L'Oreal's new reformulated Double Extension Mascara, which is the closest to false eyelashes we can get.

Eye-color formulations that are cool to the skin, easy to apply and high on staying power are water-based Awake's Stardom eye tint liquid eye colors, with eight versatile shades. My favorites are champagne, lavender, cherry pink and gray. Shu Uemura's Eye Jellies feel like damp sponges with cool liquid color. One spreads them by using the fingers. The bestsellers are blue and beige. Awake's liquid eyeliners come in five colors and are very waterproof and so unlike the pencil version, they won't smear.

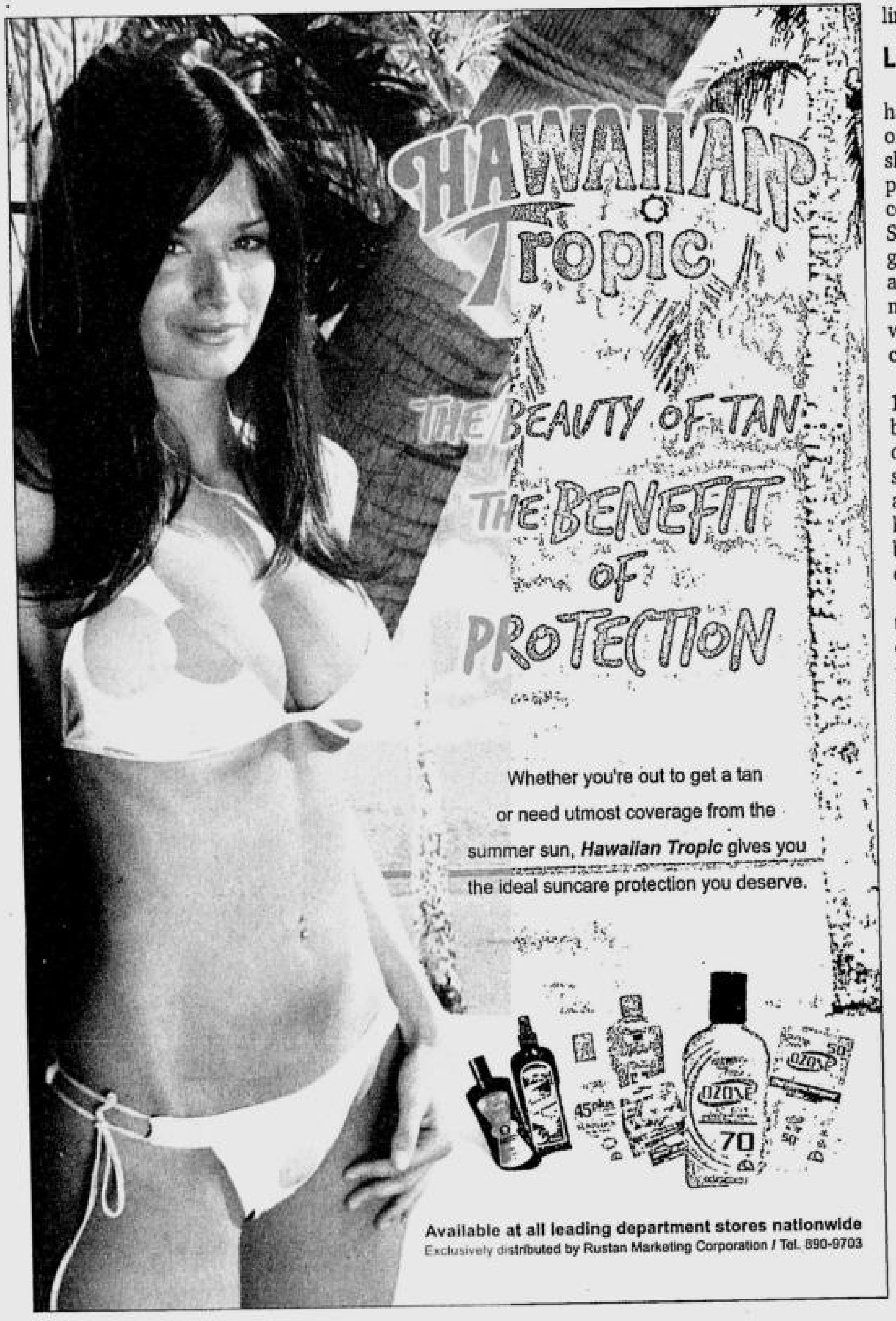


**LANCÔME L'Extreme Lengthening Mascara**

## Cheeks

The colors to have are those from the peach and pink family. Of course it follows that the darker the skin, the deeper the pigment should be. Very tanned complexions can go straight to bronzers for cheeks. I highly recommend Shu Uemura's Apricot and Sakura blush. Generally black or dark brown-haired girls look better with Sakura cherry blossom pink and those with golden-brown or highlighted hair look great in apricot.

If you want the combination of peach and pink with shimmer like Nars Orgasm, which is always out of stock, try P Pink 36D. The pigment of Shu blushes are pretty rich that they will show up on darker skin when applied with a heavier hand. For those with a tighter budget, Maybelline has a great selection of affordable blushers in its Pure Blush range. Pure Apricot is not a bad substitute for Shu's Apricot. A close shade to Sakura is Revlon's Love that Pink.



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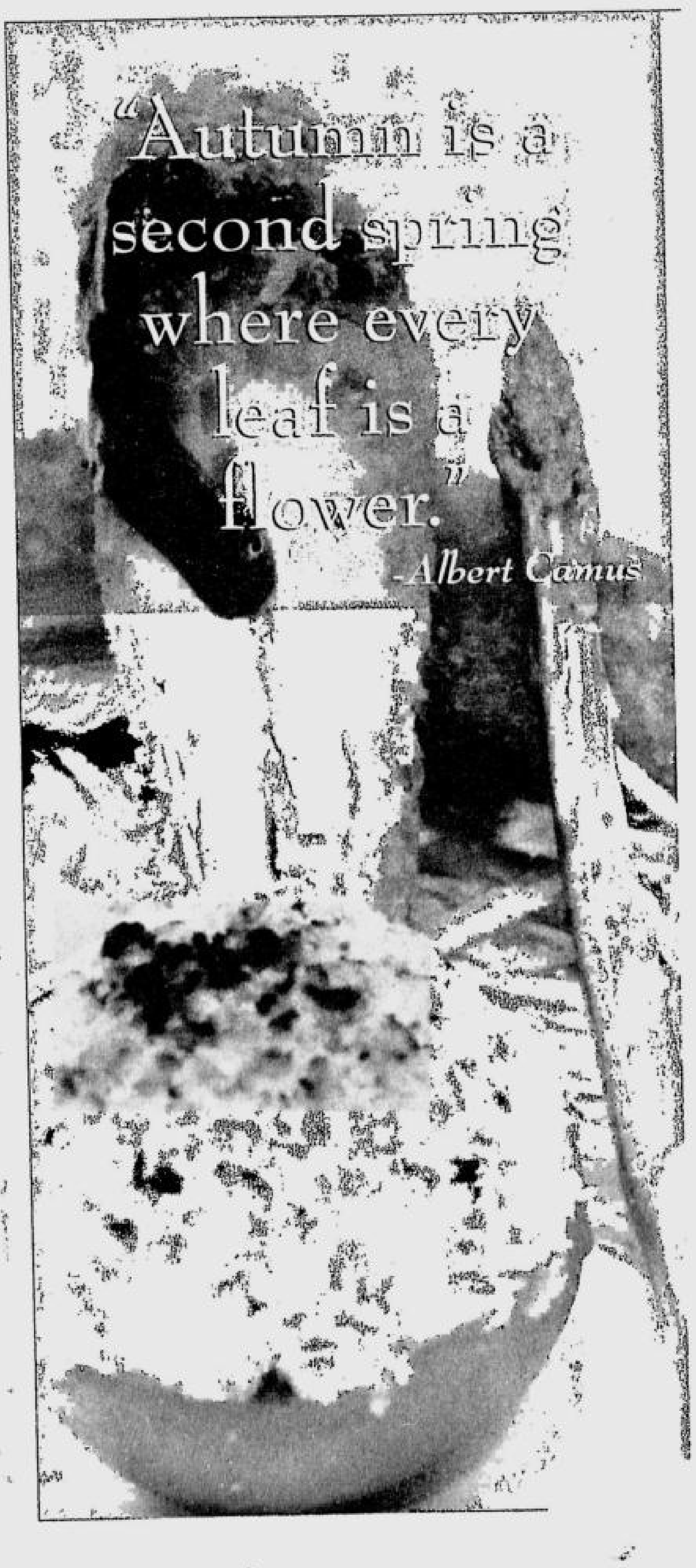

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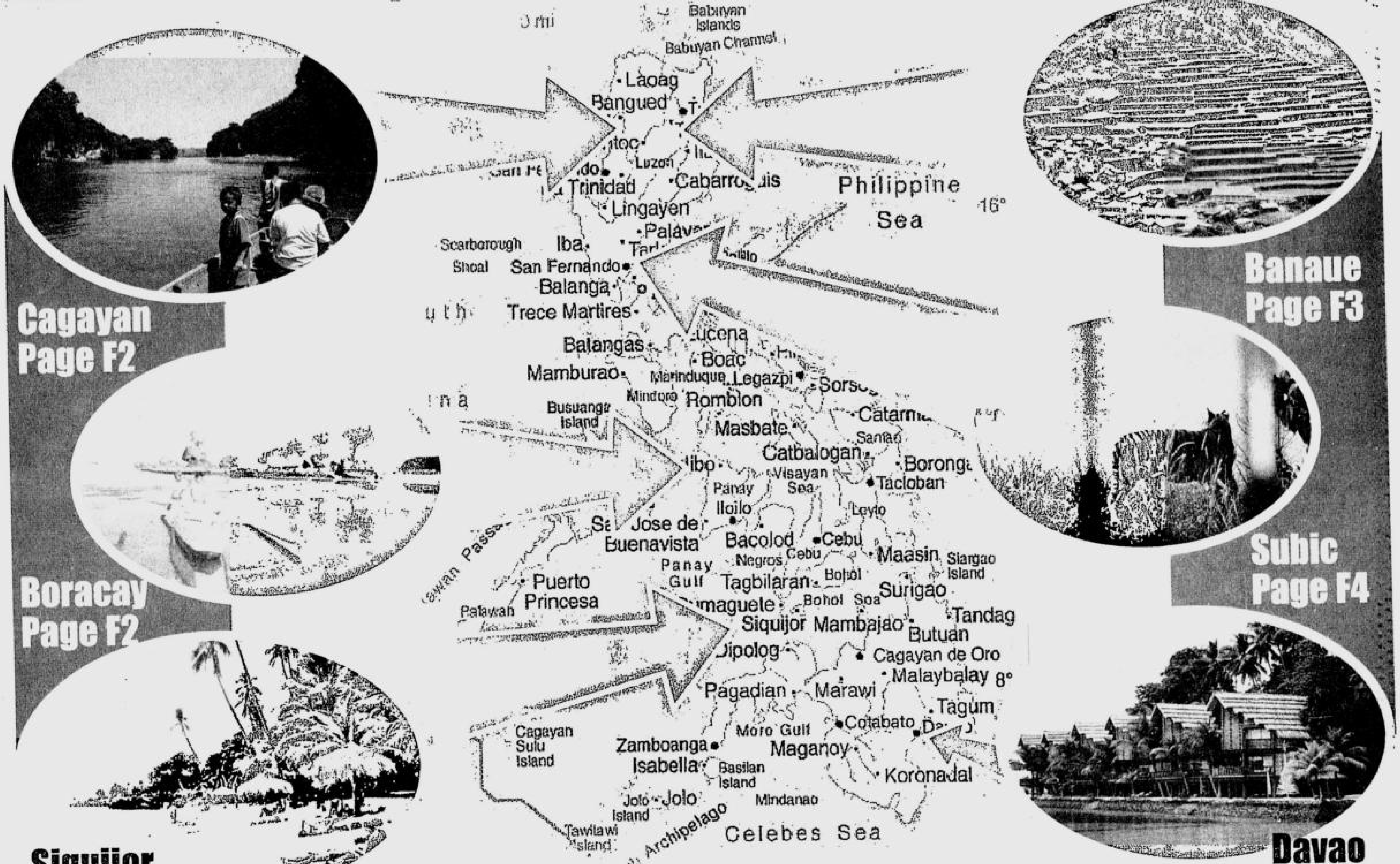
# Sun sa Pilipinas? Everywhere!

No need to cross international borders to experience your best travel experience this summer. Here are 6 hotspots in the Philippines that promise to be worth your while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Cebu
Negros
Maasin
Siargao Island
Puerto Princesa
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Moro Gulf
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Maganoy
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Mindanao
Tawitawi Island
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Celebes Sea

Cagayan
Page F2

Boracay
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Banaue
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Davao
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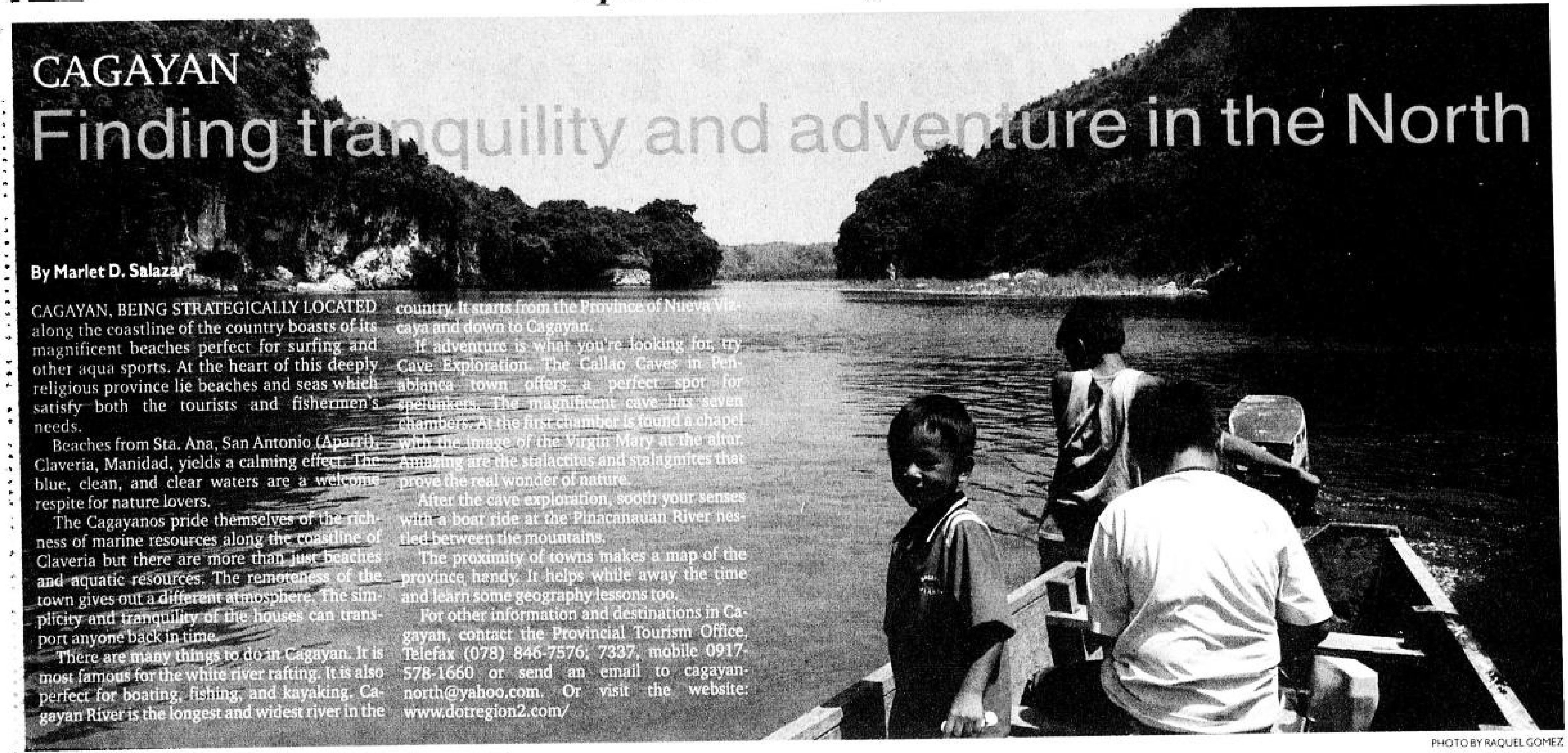


PHOTO BY RAQUEL GOMEZ

## CAGAYAN

# Finding tranquility and adventure in the North

By Marlet D. Salazar

CAGAYAN, BEING STRATEGICALLY LOCATED along the coastline of the country boasts of its magnificent beaches perfect for surfing and other aqua sports. At the heart of this deeply religious province lie beaches and seas which satisfy both the tourists and fishermen's needs.

Beaches from Sta. Ana, San Antonio (Aparri), Claveria, Manidad, yields a calming effect. The blue, clean, and clear waters are a welcome respite for nature lovers.

The Cagayanos pride themselves of the richness of marine resources along the coastline of Claveria but there are more than just beaches and aquatic resources. The remoteness of the town gives out a different atmosphere. The simplicity and tranquility of the houses can transport anyone back in time.

There are many things to do in Cagayan. It is most famous for the white river rafting. It is also perfect for boating, fishing, and kayaking. Cagayan River is the longest and widest river in the country. It starts from the Province of Nueva Vizcaya and down to Cagayan.

If adventure is what you're looking for, try Cave Exploration. The Callao Caves in Penablanca town offers a perfect spot for spelunkers. The magnificent cave has seven chambers. At the first chamber is found a chapel with the image of the Virgin Mary at the altar. Amazing are the stalactites and stalagmites that prove the real wonder of nature.

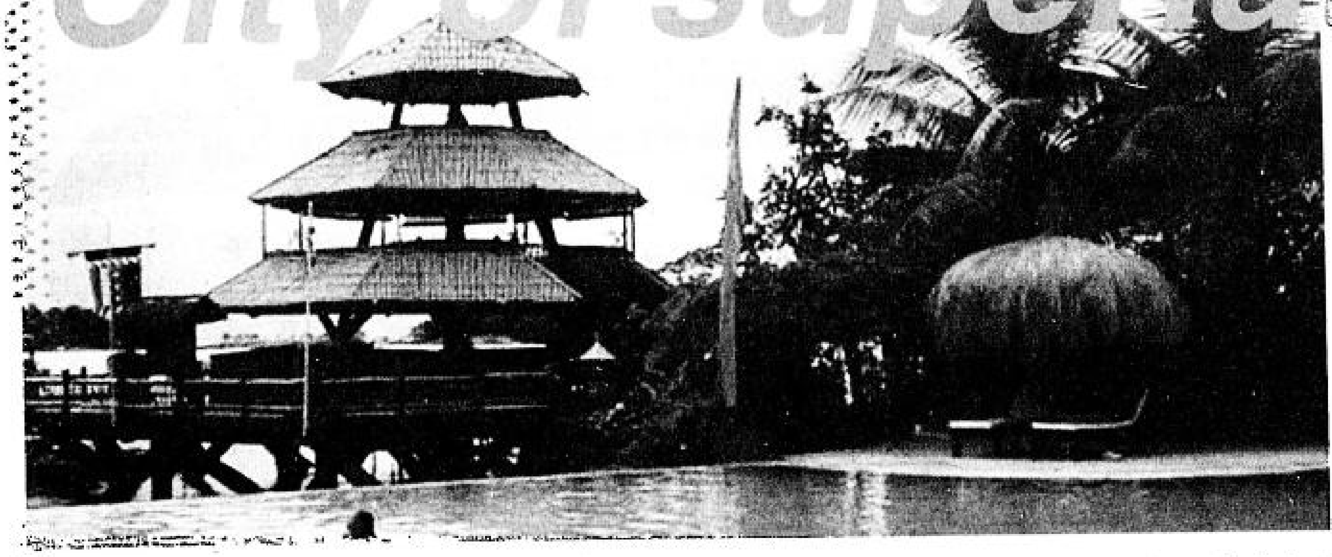
After the cave exploration, sooth your senses with a boat ride at the Pinacanauan River nestled between the mountains.

The proximity of towns makes a map of the province handy. It helps while away the time and learn some geography lessons too.

For other information and destinations in Cagayan, contact the Provincial Tourism Office, Telefax (078) 846-7576; 7337, mobile 0917-578-1660 or send an email to cagayannorth@yahoo.com. Or visit the website: www.dotregion2.com/

## DAVAO

# City of superlatives



PHOTOS BY JOEL NIGOS

Text and photos by Joel V. Nigos

DAVAO IS NO STRANGER TO superlatives. The city proper is one of the world's largest cities. It is one of the most livable cities in Asia and one of the cleanest and greenest in the Philippines. It is also home to the country's highest peak, Mt. Apo, and the most important Philippine orchid specie, the waling-waling.

Dubbed as the "Fruit Basket of the Philippines," Davao also boasts of large areas of fruit plantations and is home to the world-famous banana, pineapple, pomelo, and durian, the king of all fruits.

At the slopes of Mt. Apo is where waling-waling, regarded as the queen mother of orchid specie grows. The capital, Davao City, is also where a thriving orchid and cut-flower industry, orchid farms and flower plantations abound.

Davao's major attractions include the world-class Pearl Farm Beach Resort in the Island Garden City of Samal; the Philippine Eagle Nature Center in Calinan which treats visitors to a rare glimpse of one of the world's endangered bird species, the Philippine eagle; the Crocodile Park in Ma-a, probably the country's richest in terms of diversity; the Malagos Garden Resort with its butterfly sanctuary, horseback-riding trails, orchid farm and petting zoo and Samal Island itself which is home to fine white sand beaches, dive sites and caves.

The DOT Regional Office in Davao may be reached through tel. nos. (082) 221-0070 or (082) 221-6955 or at e-mail address dotr11@yahoo.com.

### Pearl Farm Beach Resort, Island Garden City of Samal

This private beach resort, though situated in the chartered Island Garden City of Samal is one of Davao's major tourist attractions.

Once a breeding ground for President Emilio Aguinaldo's white-lipped oyster, whose survival depends on the cleanest underwater environment, the original pearl farm has been converted into the existing Pearl Farm Beach Resort in 1992, the same year when its magnificent blue waters was declared a marine sanctuary, thus, preserving its unique coral formations and fish life forever.

It is bordered on the east by two hectares of gorgeous lush tropical forest with an unusually wide variety of native greens, giant ferns and flowers. The houses in the resort are inspired by the stilt-houses of the Sulu Sea using strictly native materials like bamboo, coconut and yakal. They offer extremely comfortable accommodations and the westward views of the sea, sunset, Mt. Apo and surrounding islands.

The world-class resort was host to the Asean Tourism Forum held in the country last Jan. 13-21.

This private beach resort, though situated in the chartered Island Garden City of Samal, is one of Davao's major tourist attractions

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## BORACAY

# RP's hottest destination

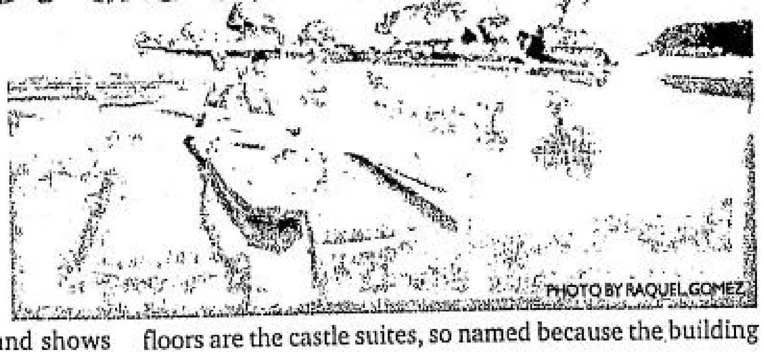


PHOTO BY RAQUEL GOMEZ

PROBABLY THE PHILIPPINES' HOTTEST destination this time of year. Boracay's pristine white sand beaches have lured local and foreign tourists inhabiting the island from sun up to sun down. Activities in the island can keep everybody awake all day-from frolicking in the clear waters, to banana boat ride or parasailing, to snorkeling or simply raiding the various shops that have sprouted in its every nook and cranny. At night, one can hop from one establishment to another as each offers music, food and shows for the island visitors. Indeed, Manila's gimmick nights have been transported to this world-class resort.

Yes, the Koreans have not only invaded our evening TV fare but also our country's tourist destinations including Boracay. Latest statistics show that they have exceeded the Japanese as the second largest foreign tourists next only to the Americans. In Boracay, they can be found at Seraph Hotel, which incidentally is owned by a Korean.

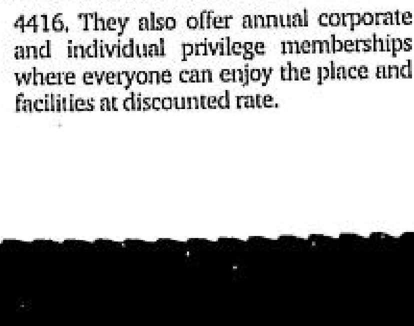
What lured them really to this world-class beach resort are its rooms with pool access. This is ideal for honeymooners, which forms the largest slice of Seraph Hotel's market, as they can go to the pool directly through their room's rear door. Located in the second and the third floors are the castle suites, so named because the building resembles that of a castle.

Its first two buildings house the presidential and suite rooms which contain furnishings all sourced from Italy. The new building's furnishings came from China-from the big bed down to the pillows.

Now with 204 rooms, Seraph Hotel is now the biggest resort hotel in Boracay. Its amenities include three swimming pools, a gym, a game room, and a main dining restaurant which also serves as a convention area.

For inquiries, you may visit its Manila office at Casa Catalina Bldg., No. 635 Gen. Malvar St., Malate, Manila, tel. no. 524-4825 or 524-4142. You may also log on to www.boracayseraph.com. *Joel V. Nigos*

# The perfect summer hideaway



JUST AN HOUR AWAY FROM MANILA is a peaceful and exquisite leisure park - Leo's Leisure Park in Calibutbut, Bacolor, Pampanga (between San Fernando City and Angeles City).

Leo's Leisure Park is a ten-hectare farmland with 60 percent of the area in natural spring water. Carefully constructed in harmony with its natural surroundings, the park has two function areas within the lake, a fishing village, two swimming pools that is "Batis" and a 25-meter pool. Enjoy horse back riding and mini golf, jogging and fishing and our track and field arena. Experience boating and bamboo rafting with the ducks and fish teeming by. A rural-setting backdrop of tall swaying bamboo, as herds of horses, goats, and sheep graze nearby. Relax with a massage or spend the night in any of the rustic cottages with the best of Philippine furniture. Also enjoy affordable meals at Leo's Grill and Restaurant at the Fishing Village.

Leo's Leisure Park is the perfect place for corporate functions like team buildings, business planning and conferences; school functions, sports fests, weddings and family get together parties.

For inquiries on group packages, call (02)246-8344, (02)928-5445, (02)928-3301, (02)926-7750, Fax# (02)929-4416. They also offer annual corporate and individual privilege memberships where everyone can enjoy the place and facilities at discounted rate.

# A journey from Banaue to Sagada

**By Marlet D. Salazar**

IFUGAO IS ONE OF THE MOST FREQUENTED TOURIST spots in the country, and the Banaue Rice Terraces, the famous.

Going on a Banaue Heritage Tour will bring you to other wonderful places and the discovery of the local's ancestry, culture, and way of life will leave you in awe. Mostly involved in carving, the people of Ifugao were able to create what would be considered the 8th Wonder of the World.

More than the magnificent view, the terraces have their own stories to tell. It was estimated that it took more than 2,000 years for the natives to build it. The women tend to it while the eldest daughter inherits it. Rising to at least 3,000 feet, the rice terraces are more than just a view to marvel at.

A few minutes ride from Banaue proper is the Bangaan village, a small community of locals who managed to preserve their ancestry. It is said that in certain times of the year, one can see a rainbow against the setting sun at the horizon. In the journey going to Sagada from Banaue, a stop at the Mt. Polis will give you the chill (literally). Imagine the weather atop the mountain of 6,000 feet above sea level!

With amazing mountains to feast your eyes on, every traveler wouldn't mind the bumpy ride.

And what a way to conclude the trip but with the dream destination of Sagada. Sagada is now surrounded with establishments to suit every traveler's needs. To reach the Echo Valley which happens to be one of the perfect spots to view from afar the hanging coffins, one has to pass through a "conventional" cemetery.

It is also a haven for cheap goods like the big tomatoes which cost only about P20 a kilo, mountain tea for only P10 a pack.

Engrande Travel offers Banaue Heritage Tour for groups and families. Contact 851-0361, 851-1549, mobile 0921-9796165 with offices at Buenavista Bldg., Quirino Ave., Parañaque City.

PHOTO BY RAQUEL GOMEZ

# SIQUIJOR

## Island of mysticism and magi

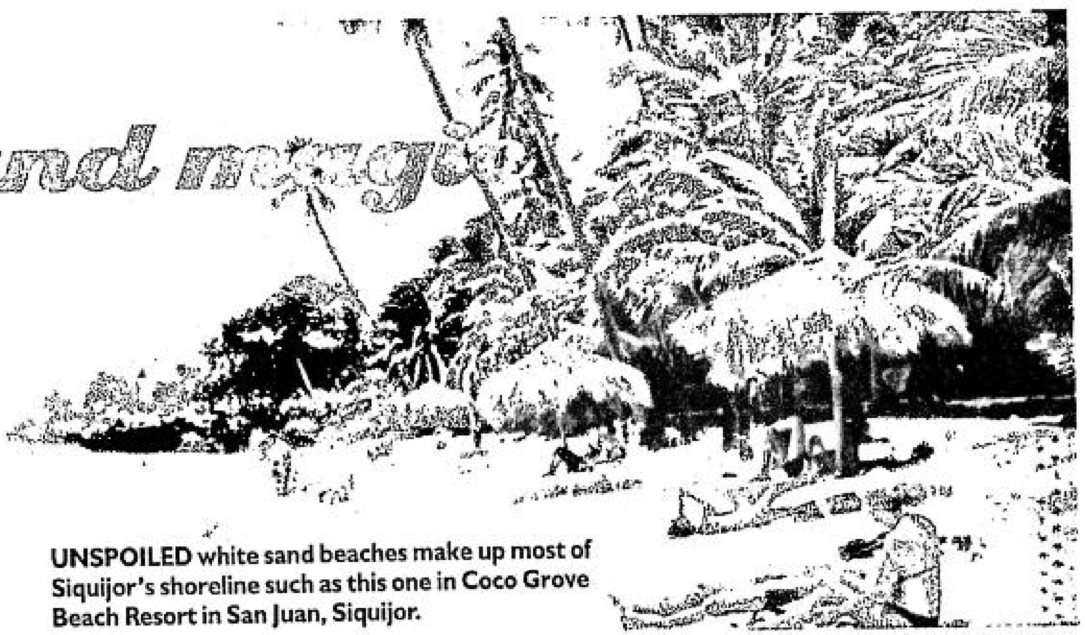
**By Joel Nigos**

SIQUIJOR IS AN ISLAND BELIEVED TO HAVE RISEN from the ocean in an immense storm and is a province masked with mysteries, unusual religious beliefs, witchcraft and sorcery. The island is famous for the mangkukulam, healers or sorcerers-individuals who treat ailments and cast maleficent spell. The Spaniards called it "Isla del Fuego" or "island of fire" because of the eerie luminescence generated by the swarms of fireflies found in the island at night which adds mystery to the province.

But aside from this mystery and black magic that have been associated with the province, there is another form of magic that would definitely enchant visitors to the province. The island is a perfect laidback getaway for people weary of urban life. It is surrounded by uncrowded beaches, unexplored caves, falls, picturesque sunset and varying colors of the sea filled with mysterious sites to discover. Also can be found in Siquijor is the San Isidro Labrador Church and Convent in Lazi, reputed to be the biggest and among the oldest in the country.

Siquijor is accessible via boat or fast ferries from Cebu, Dumaguete or Bohol.

For inquiries, you may call the Siquijor Provincial Tourism Office at (035) 344-2088 or (035) 480-9076.



**UNSPOILED** white sand beaches make up most of Siquijor's shoreline such as this one in Coco Grove Beach Resort in San Juan, Siquijor.

PHOTO BY JOEL NIGOS

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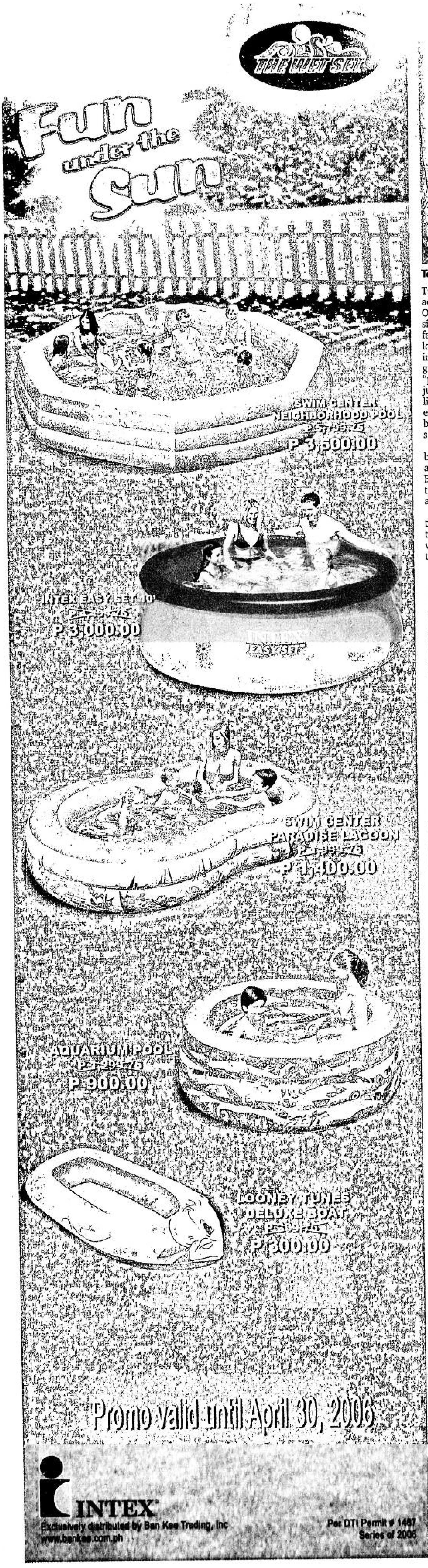
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# GET WET AND WILD IN A SUBIC ADVENTURE

**Text and photos by Raquel P. Gomez**

TO EXPERIENCE A ZOOBIC SAFARI adventure in Subic Bay Freeport in Olongapo City is like being thrown inside National Geographic's African safari program. A pack of huge healthy-looking tigers chase after your vehicle in open grassland. Curious ostriches gather round your vehicle as if to say "peek-a-boo." In a show staged in the jungle, a wild boar thinks and acts like dog, a blind albino python snake entertains guests, and cub tigers as big as Labradors are eager to be stroked and bottle fed by guests.

The Zoobic Safari experience may be more than enough to satisfy the animal longing in you, but at Subic Bay, there are still several adventures that can thrill, excite and get your adrenalin going.

Subic Bay offers a range of activities that will make you wet and wild this summer, from safaris, jungle survival lessons (JEST Camp) and mountain treks to wonderful beaches and diving sites and whaleshark and dolphin shows (Ocean Adventure). The Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) is currently offering affordable tour packages.

A Subic Day tour costing only P599 per person will have you experience the Zoobic Safari, Pamulaklakin Forest Trail, Triboa Bay Mangrove Park and JEST camp. A Subic Day Tour Plus at P699 per person includes Zoobic Safari, Pamulaklakin Forest Trail, Apaliin trail, JEST camp and beach.

Subic adventure for the family costs P1,999 per person and includes twin sharing accommodation with breakfast, Zoobic Safari, JEST Camp, Triboa Bay Mangrove Park, Pamulaklakin Forest Trail, and beach.

For a group or a "barkada" planning to go to Subic, a rate of P899 per person with quad-sharing accommodation will have them experience Zoobic Safari, JEST Camp, Apaliin Trail, Pamulaklakin Forest Trail, Triboa Bay Mangrove Park, nightlife and beach.

Nature Adventure priced at P2,199 offers the places mentioned plus use of Go Kart and the experience of Extreme Adventure. Corporate outing rate goes for P1,699 per person and this includes accommodation, Zoobic Safari, Pamulaklakin Trail, beach, Triboa Bay and Mangrove Park and nightlife. For more info, log on to www.sbma.com.

# Summer toys that will take your breath away

FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART SUMMER IS synonymous with endless fun such as excursions, picnics and vacations to distant and exciting places with the family relatives and friends. But for many kids who prefer the quiet comfort and safety of the family abode, there can be a thousand and one fun ways to make their summer a worthwhile, enjoyable and pleasant time. Here are some of the latest toys and gadgets that can turn your summer days into one great fun and exciting adventure:

Thomas & Friends. Thomas & Friends is a popular television series that chronicles the adventures of Thomas, a cheeky little tank engine and his friends in the fictional island of Sador, an idyllic place where all vehicles have their own personalities. Today Thomas & Friends are more popular than ever before. More Thomas & Friends Railways models are displayed in some Toytown branches.

Tamagotchi. The Tamagotchi connection is all about caring for your pet and sharing it with your friends. Its newer model, Tamagotchi version 3, is more innovative and more virtual than the earlier models. Featuring an Internet component for unlimited fun and excitement, you can play with your virtual pet in your handset and with your PCs.

TV Games. If you want to re-live those classic favorites or get your hands on today's hottest hit, TV Games is the gadget with which you'll get to see them all. TV Games is the hottest trend in toys this year. Watch for this season's new and exciting TV Games in your nearest toy store.

Dino Magic. Here's your chance to bring out all the Dinosaur species to life with Moose's Dino Magic eggs. Collect and connect all the Dino Magic dinosaur figurines that explode from the Dino Magic egg. All you have to do is to place your special Dino Magic egg into warm water and watch it magically begin to fizz. In seconds the Dino Magic egg will erupt and dissolve and yield an ancient specie of Dinosaur for you to assemble and collect.

Gazillion Bubbles. Recognized for its infinitely superior bubble solution, the Gazillion Bubbles Machine finds favor with the toy fanatics of all ages. It includes cleverly designed 7-in-1 wands, plus bubble gums and blowers giant wands and motorized machines.

Thomas & Friends, Tamagotchi, TV Games Dino Magic and Gazillion Bubble Machine are exclusively distributed by Ban Kee Trading Inc and are now available at leading toy shops and department stores nationwide.

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dti
DEPARTMENT OF TRADE & INDUSTRY PHILIPPINES

**In cooperation with**

PRA PHILIPPINE RETAILERS ASSOCIATION

# Franchise Excellence Awards 2005

GUNG-HO PLAYERS IN THE FRANCHISING sector all came to witness the awarding of winners in the recently concluded Franchise Excellence Awards (FEA) 2005 held at the Grand Ballroom of Crowne Plaza Manila, ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

Spearheaded by the Philippine Franchise Association (PFA), in partnership with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) and the Philippine Retailers Association (PRA), FEA recognizes and showcases franchise players who have exuded great deal of excellence both in terms of business growth and ethical practices in the field of franchising. Now on its 7th year, FEA has been the most prestigious and the only seal of recognition for excellence given to the country's top franchisors.

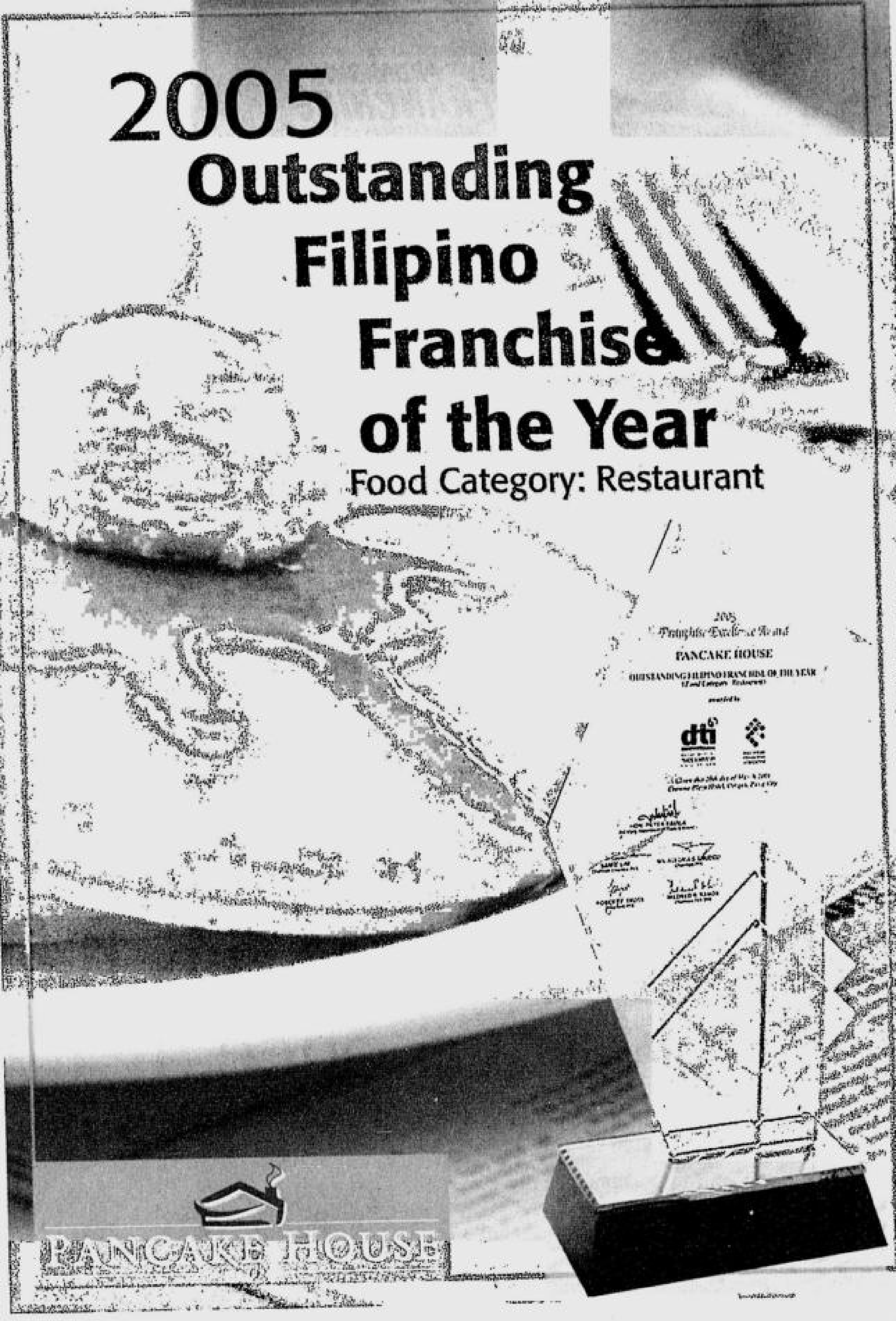
Since its inception in 1998, FEA has aimed to encourage the further development of franchise companies, both homegrown and international, and actualize the following objectives: to promote and sustain the growth of franchising as a tool for national development; to empower and professionalize homegrown franchises and top performing master franchises to be able to meet world-class standards; and to actively promote Filipino franchises internationally.

FEA awardees join the roster of previous years' winners considered as "benchmarks" in the franchise sector.

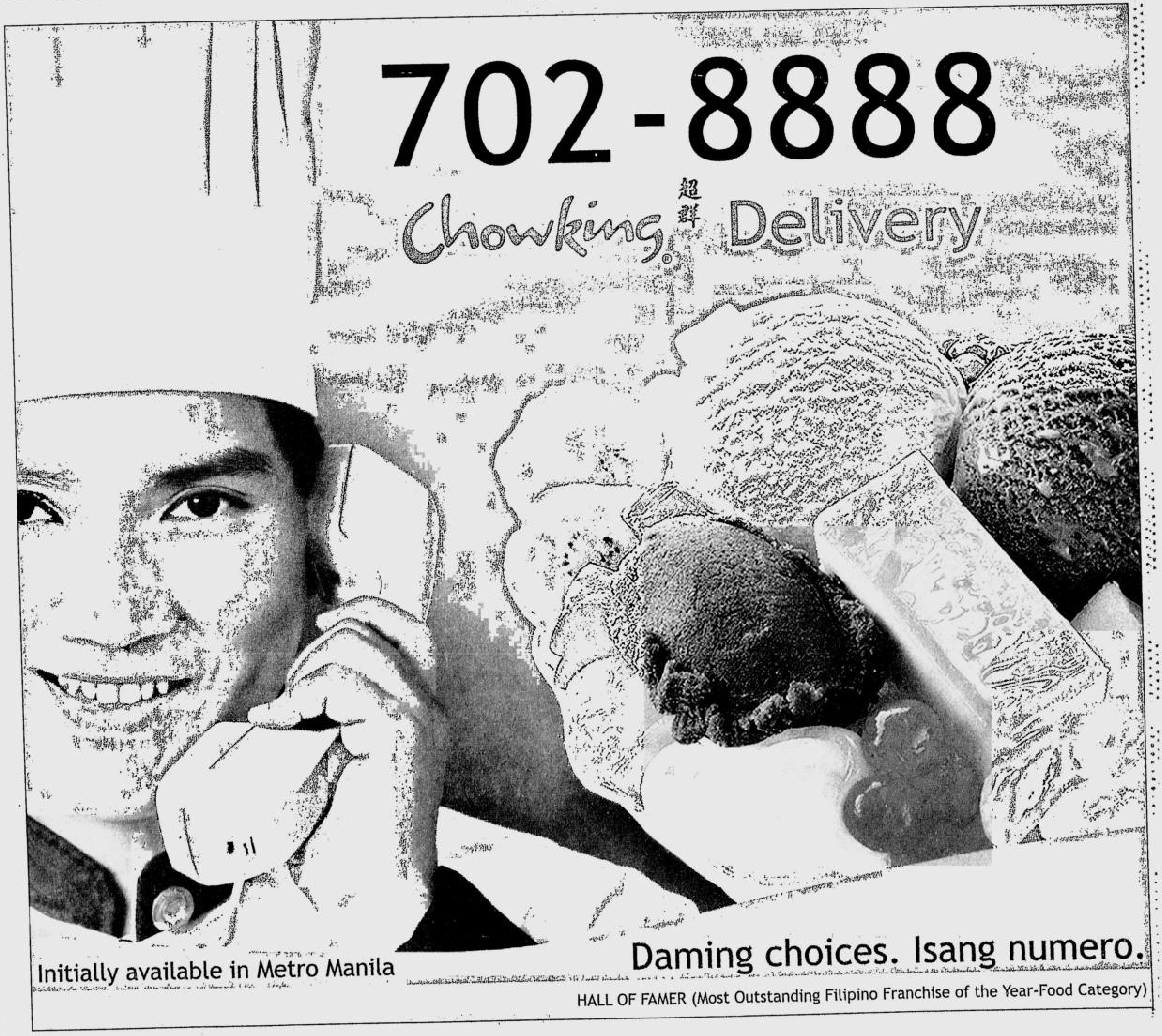
As in previous years, nominees in this year's search were judged based on a carefully crafted set of criteria. These included the franchise concept's franchise program, sales and marketing program, franchising operating system, corporate social responsibility, as well as ethical practices and reputation. The deciding factors

FRANCHISE/ G2

> FEA awardees join the roster of previous years' winners considered as "benchmarks" in the franchise sector



2005
Outstanding Filipino Franchise of the Year
Food Category: Restaurant
PANCAKE HOUSE



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HALL OF FAMER (Most Outstanding Filipino Franchise of the Year-Food Category)

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SHOWN are (from left, first row) Lin Deres, Franchise Relations Manager, Goldilocks; Jose Maria Grau, Jr., VP- Franchise & Operations, Netopia Internet Café; Bernadette Lee, Managing Director, Pancake House; Franklin Go, Store Operations Director, Goldilocks; DTI Secretary Peter Favila; Pinky Estrebillo, General Manager, Bayo; Ted Ilano, Business and Franchise Development Manager, Greenwich; Gina Navarrete, General Manager, Greenwich; Florethel Hawak, Franchisee, Julie's Franchise Corporation; Catherine Nisce and Reynaldo Nisce, Franchisee, Mr. Quickie Corporation; (from left, second row) Ricardo Andres, President, Candy Corner; Daniel K. Jose, VP Admin & Finance, Brother's Burger; Jose Antonio Soler, President, Crystal Clear; Robert Trota, President, PFA & Max's Restaurant, Bing Limjoco, PFA Chairman; Ella Calaor-Oplas, Sr. Project Assistant, CIDA Pearl 2 Project; Joe Goodings, Second Secretary, Canadian Embassy; Samie Lim, PFA Chairman Emeritus; Mildred Ramos, Partner, SGV & Co./FEA 2005 Chairman; Gail Santos, Franchisee, Max's Restaurant; Jose T. Pardo, PFA Founding Chairman; Ronald Pineda, President & CEO, Folded & Hung; Bobby Gandionco and Virgilio Espeleta, Chairman and President respectively, Julie's Franchise.

# Franchise Excellence Awards 2005

From page G1

included the growth and financial performance/ profitability of each nominee for the years 2001-2004.

This year's finalists are as follows: Goldilocks Bakeshop, Pancake House, Julie's Franchise Corp., Netopia Internet Café, Greenwich Pizza Corp., Kamiseta, Monterey Foods Corp., Phil. Seven Corp., Bo's Coffee Club, Brother's Burger, Folded & Hung, Bayo, Crystal Clear Water System, Candy Corner.

For the Franchisees, finalists are as follows: Gail Santos (SC Foods Corp., Max's Restaurant), Florethel Hawak (Altrich Trading, Julie's Franchise Corp), Catherine Nisce (Nisce Enterprises, Mr. Quickie), and Teresita Cruz (Absolute Vision Entertainment, Viva Video City).

Joining the roster of PFA FEA winners are the following: Hall of Fame: Goldilocks Bakeshop (Food: Specialty - Large Scale), Greenwich Pizza Corp. (Food: Fastfood). Most Outstanding Filipino Franchise: Pancake House (Food: Restaurant) Julie's Franchise Corp. (Food: Specialty) and, Netopia Internet Café (Service). Most Promising Filipino Franchise: Folded & Hung (Retail Category) and Brothers Burger (Food Category).

Franchise Marketing Campaign: Goldilocks Bakeshop (Food: Specialty- Large Scale), Julie's Franchise Corp. (Food: Specialty - Medium Scale), Bayo (Retail); Candy Corner (Kiosk), and Crystal Clear Water (Service).

Franchisee of the Year Award: Gail Santos, SC Foods Corp., Max's Restaurant (Food: Large Scale); Florethel Hawak, Altrich Trading, Julie's Franchise Corp. (Food: Medium Scale) and Catherine Nisce, Nisce Enterprises, Mr. Quickie Corp. (Service).

Aside from the FEA Awards, PFA also gave Special Citations to PFA members who were recipients of other prestigious award-giving bodies, namely Entrepreneur of the Year by Ernst and Young, Agora Awards by the Philippine Marketing Association, and Entrepreneur 10 by Entrepreneur Philippines.

The Chairman's Award which started in 2003, was also presented by the PFA Board of Trustees in recognition of outstanding contributions made by a person, institution, or academe which lead to the growth and development of the franchise sector. Three prestigious institutions and a member of the Philippine Senate received this year's Chairman's Awards. They are the CIDA Pearl2 for assisting the development of SMEs through Business Support Organizations, thus creating hundreds of thousands of new and meaningful jobs all over the country; the AIM Policy Center for helping enhance the overall competitiveness of Asian countries through research and policy studies as well as the fostering of a public policy environment through Global Competitiveness, City Competitiveness and Infrastructure Governance and Regulation Programs; the Philippine Services Coalition for undertaking activities and programs which are geared towards services development and export promotion of Philippine products and services; and Sen. Mar Roxas for the creation of the SME Force which helped develop new small and medium enterprises, and likewise fostered the growth of the franchising sector in the country.

## FEA 2005 SEARCH COMMITTEE

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Partner, SGV & Co.
A Member Practice of Ernst & Young Global
Chairman, FEA 2005 Search Committee

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**MARS CHUA**
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**FELIPE MATIBAG**
Consultant, Francorp

Here's to the entire Julie's Family whose never ending commitment to excellence has been rewarded once again.

OUTSTANDING FRANCHISE OF THE YEAR
Receiving the award are (2nd from left) Virgilio G. Espeleta- Pres. & COO -JFC and Roberto Gandionco - Chairman & CEO-JFC. Presenters are ( from left) Sergio Ortiz-Luis Jr. - Chairman Emeritus-PCCI, Peter Favela - DTI Secretary and Ma. Alegria Limjoco - Chairman PFA

FRANCHISE MARKETING CAMPAIGN OF THE YEAR
Receiving the award are (from left) Emmanuel E. Viado - Nat'l. Fanchise Dev't. Manager-JFC, Raoul E. Polancos - Nat'l. Mktg. Manager-JFC and Virgilio G. Espeleta - Pres. & COO-JFC. Presenters are ( from left) Jose Pardo - Founding Chairman PFA and Atty. Miguel Varela - Chairman PCCI

FRANCHISEE OF THE YEAR - Ritchie Hawak (JBS Batangas)
Receiving the award are (2nd from left) Alvin & Ritchie Hawak-Franchisee of the Year and (right) Virgilio G. Espeleta - Pres. & COO-JFC. Presenters are ( from left) Jose Ma. Concepcion III - Presidential Consultant for Entrepreneurship & Pres. & CEO, RFM Corp., Sorayda Alonzo - DTI-USEC and Manuel Siggaoat - PFA VP-Finance.

2005 Excellence Award
JULIE'S FRANCHISE CORP.
OUTSTANDING FILIPINO FRANCHISE OF THE YEAR

JULIES FRANCHISE CORPORATION
Philippine Franchise Association
2005 Franchise Excellence Awardee
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# Franchise Excellence Awards 2006

## Hall of Fame

Food: Specialty Category- Large Scale **GOLDILOCKS BAKESHOP.** Lin Deres (Franchise Relations Manager), Franklin L. Go (Store Operations Director), Sec. Peter Favila (DTI), Amb. Donald Dee (President, PCCI), Samie Lim (Chairman Emeritus, PFA)

Food: Fastfood Category **GREENWICH PIZZA CORPORATION.** Mayette Vargas (Franchise Development Officer), Ted Ilano (Business and Franchise Development Manager), Gina Navarrete (General Manager) and Sec. Peter Favila (DTI)

## Outstanding Filipino Franchise

Food: Specialty Category-Medium Scale **JULIE'S FRANCHISE CORP.** Sergio Ortiz-Luis Jr. (Chairman Emeritus, PCCI), Virgilio Espeleta, (President & COO), Bobby Gandionco (Chairman & CEO), Sec. Peter Favila (DTI), Bing Limjoco (Chairman, PFA)

Service Category **NETOPIA INTERNET CAFÉ.** Sergio Ortiz-Luis Jr. (Chairman Emeritus, PCCI), Jose Maria Grau, Jr. (VP for Franchise and Operations), Sec. Peter Favila (DTI), Bing Limjoco

Food: Restaurant Category **PANCAKE HOUSE.** Sergio Ortiz-Luis Jr., Zenaida Mercado, (Director of Finance), Bernadette Lee (Managing Director), Sec. Peter Favila (DTI), Bing Limjoco

## Franchisee of the Year

Category - Medium Scale
Joey Concepcion (Presidential Consultant for Entrepreneurship), Alvin Hawak (COO, Altrich Trading), **FLORETHEL HAWAK** of Altrich Trading (franchisee of Julie's Franchise Corp), Zorayda Alonzo (Undersecretary for Small & Medium Enterprise Dev. Group, DTI), Manuel M. Siggaoat (VP for Finance, PFA), Virgilio Espeleta (President & COO, Julie's Franchise Corp.)

Food Category-Large Scale
Robert Trota, Joey Concepcion, **GAIL SANTOS** of SC Foods Corporation (franchisee of Max's Restaurant), Oscar Santos (SC Foods Corporation), Zorayda Alonzo, Manuel M. Siggaoat

Service Category
Joey Concepcion, **CATHERINE NISCE** of Nisce Enterprises (franchisee of Mr. Quickie Corporation), Zorayda Alonzo, Manuel M. Siggaoat

## Most Promising Filipino Franchise

Food Category **BROTHER'S BURGER.** Robert Trota (President, PFA), Daniel K. Jose (Vice President for Admin and Finance), Mars Chua (President, PRA)

Retail Category **FOLDED & HUNG.** Samie Lim Ferdie Joson (General Manager), Ronald Pineda (President), Mars Chua

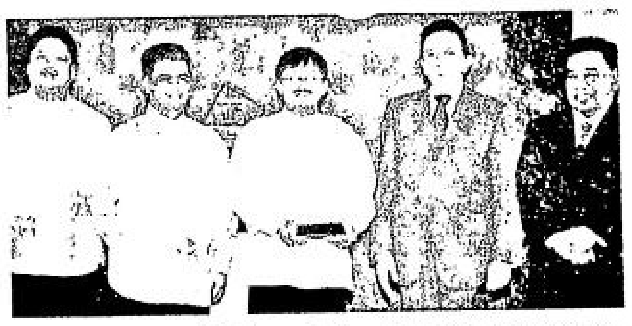
## Franchise Marketing Campaign

Retail Category **BAYO.** Atty. Miguel Varela (Chairman, PCCI), Pinky Estrebillo (General Manager), Jose Pardo (Founding Chairman, PFA)

Service Category **CRYSTAL CLEAR.** Atty. Miguel Varela (Chairman, PCCI), Jose Antonio Soler (President), Jose Pardo

Kiosk Category **CANDY CORNER.** Atty. Miguel Varela, Ricardo Andres (President), Jose Pardo

Food Category-Large Scale **GOLDILOCKS BAKESHOP** (from L to R): Atty. Miguel Varela, Lin Deres (Franchise Relations Manager) Franklin L. Go (Store Operations Director), Pinky Yee (Marketing Director), Jose Pardo



Food Category-Medium Scale **JULIE'S FRANCHISE CORP.** Emmanuel Viado (National Franchise Manager), Raoul Polancos (National Marketing Manager), Virgilio Espeleta, President and COO), Jose Pardo, Atty. Miguel Varela

## Chairman's Award

Robert Trota, Samie Lim, Dr. Federico Macaranas (Executive Director, Asian Institute of Management Policy Center), Joe Goodings (Second Secretary, Canadian Embassy), Ambassador Donald Dee, Hon. Edsel Custodio (Undersecretary for International Economic Relations, Dept of Foreign Affairs), Bing Limjoco

Senator Mar A. Roxas (Senate Committee Chair for Trade & Commerce and Economic Affairs), Amb. Donald Dee, Sergio Ortiz-Luis Jr, Samie Lim

## Special Citation

Ronald McDonald House Charities Phils.Butch Salaya (McDonald's Charities Manager) and George Yang (Chairman, Ronald McDonald House Charities Phils & Golden Arches Dev't Corp)

Butch Salaya (McDonald's Charities Manager), Raffy dela Rosa (President, Chowking Food Corporation), Bing Limjoco, Celestino Reyes (President & CEO, Reyes Hair Company International, Inc.), Robert Trota

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# *From Sweet Memories*

# *To Sweet Victory.*

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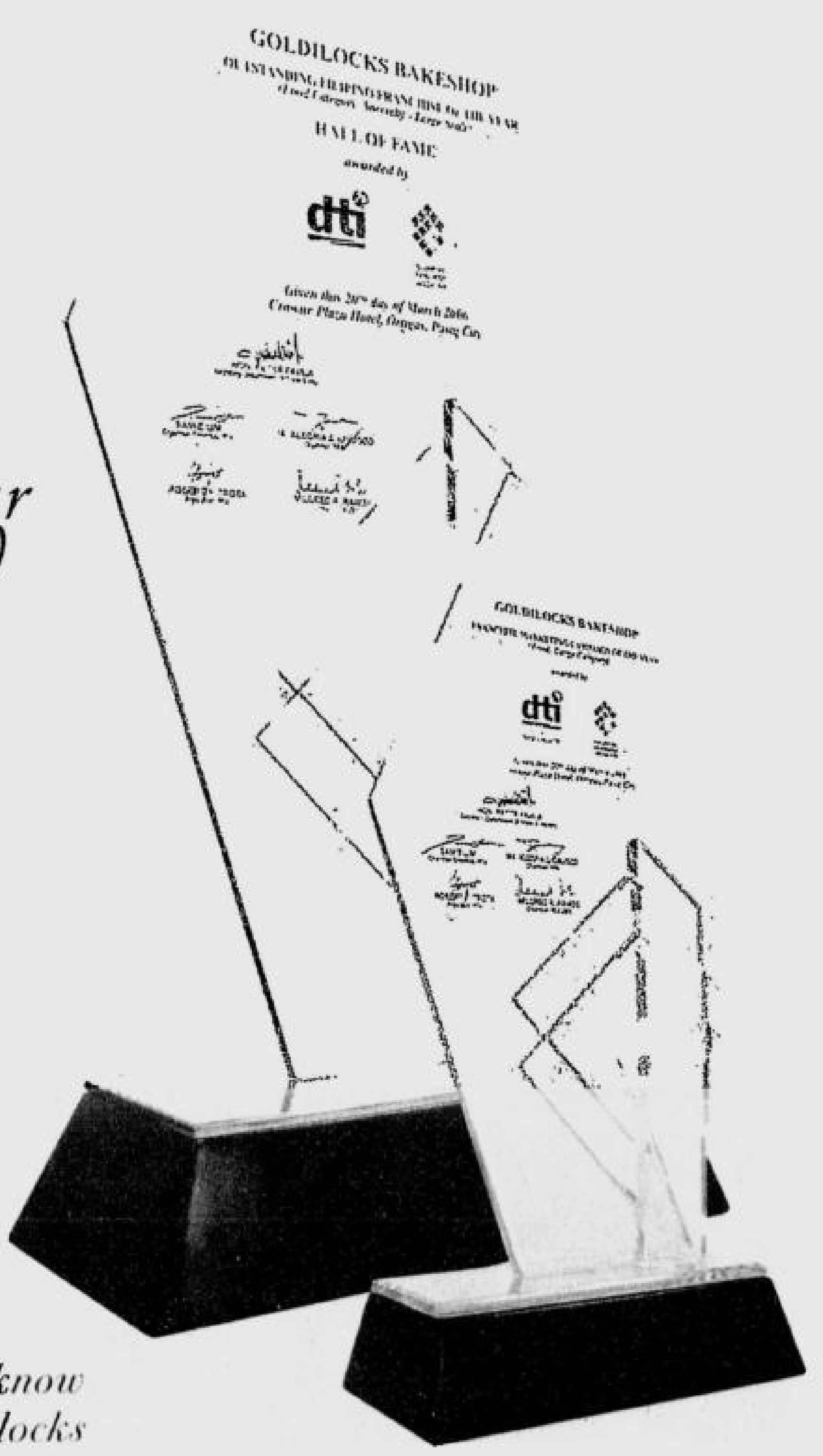
*THE COUNTRY'S #1 BAKESHOP*

2005 HALL OF FAME AWARD
*Outstanding Filipino Franchise of the Year*
*(Food Category: Specialty – Large Scale)*

*2005 Franchise Marketing Campaign of the Year (Food: Large Category)*

*Awarded by the:*

Philippine
Franchise
Association



*It's Goldilocks' dream not just to provide every neighborhood with the best baked goodies and favorite Filipino fare, but to bring the fondest and sweetest memories into every home. It's a dream we know we can't achieve on our own. But with help from our family of Goldilocks Franchisees, this dream is quickly coming true.*

*From a humble enterprise that it was 40 years ago, Goldilocks is now a household name held dear in the minds and hearts of Filipinos. With dominant leadership in the bakeshop category and an exceptional 100% total brand awareness.*

*For these sweet victories, thank you very much.*

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Goldilocks 40 Thoughtful Years

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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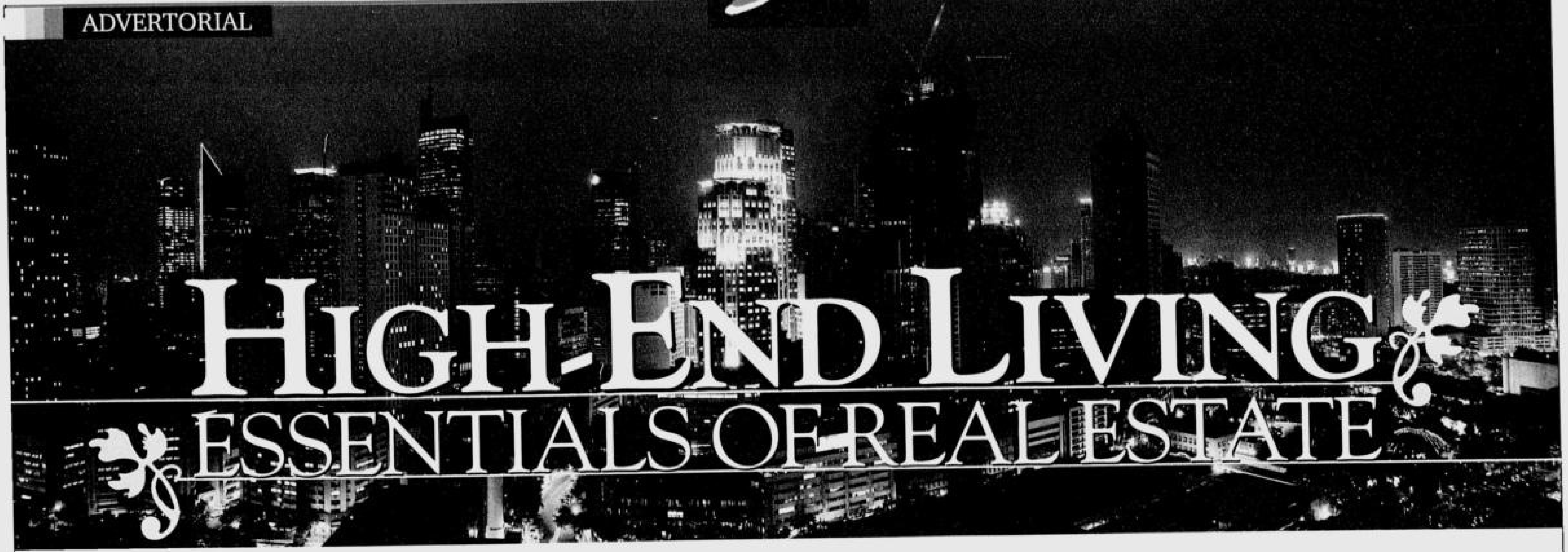


# HIGH-END LIVING

## ESSENTIALS OF REAL ESTATE

## Don't get caught flat-footed in the property race.

Perhaps you've been planning to buy property for quite some time but have remained undecided where to go.

Now is a good time to make that decision, with the real-estate industry on the verge of what could be one of the country's biggest property booms in nearly three decades, according to a report in the *Philippine Daily Inquirer.*

The property boom is seen to be broad-based, ranging from residential lots to houses and condo units to office towers, leisure facilities and hotels, especially with many Filipinos from abroad—whether working or permanently residing there—looking back to their homeland to buy condominium units, houses in gated subdivisions, and resort-style communities in the Philippines.

It is always a good time to buy property at a time when the industry is on an uptrend and right before the demand really snowballs. Prices are still relatively good and attractive deals are still available. Even banks are not as tight in financing property purchases, which usually limit loans when demand for credit surges.

And with present political and economic developments, which are eventful but otherwise stable, not affecting the real estate growth and purchase habits as much as two decades ago, the acceleration is expected to continue.

All signs point to a continued acceleration in the property race and hedging on that decision may just make you miss your chance to a good buy. ■

## Doing your homework.

Buying a property takes a great deal of preparation. Doing the required homework in advance may seem like a very obvious piece of advice, but unfortunately it is the one that is often left unheeded.

While checking out model units and prospective locations are logical steps in purchasing real estate properties, it shouldn't be the first step. It should be the last in a long laundry list of things to do and watch out for before signing that deed of sale.

Proper research begins by finding all the necessary information needed to make a sound decision—one that balances logical and emotional factors for a purchase. It is not just about buying that home you've always dreamed of having, it is also about making sure that all the factors to support that picture in your head are present.

The prevailing economic conditions, not just personal but also the general state of the economy, should be carefully taken into consideration. The property market is heavily influenced by the economy—the rise and fall of interest rates and inflation, the supply of available houses vis-à-vis the supply of property buyers.

Timing the market to be able to get the best value for your purchase can be done by keeping tabs on sources of information that monitor the movements of these indicators such as newspapers, magazines, the stock market or even your investment portfolio.

Once the conditions are right for the purchase of real estate, carefully list down the features and amenities your home should have. In another column, enumerate the items that you would want to have.

Paramount should be the assurance that the property lies in a safe neighborhood or location, where your family can do what they want near your home without having to worry about safety.

Aside from safety, it is also important to make sure that the property affords your family ample space and privacy. A tranquil and stress-free environment is so fleeting in today's hectic world that ample private space is important to cope with today's busy lifestyle.

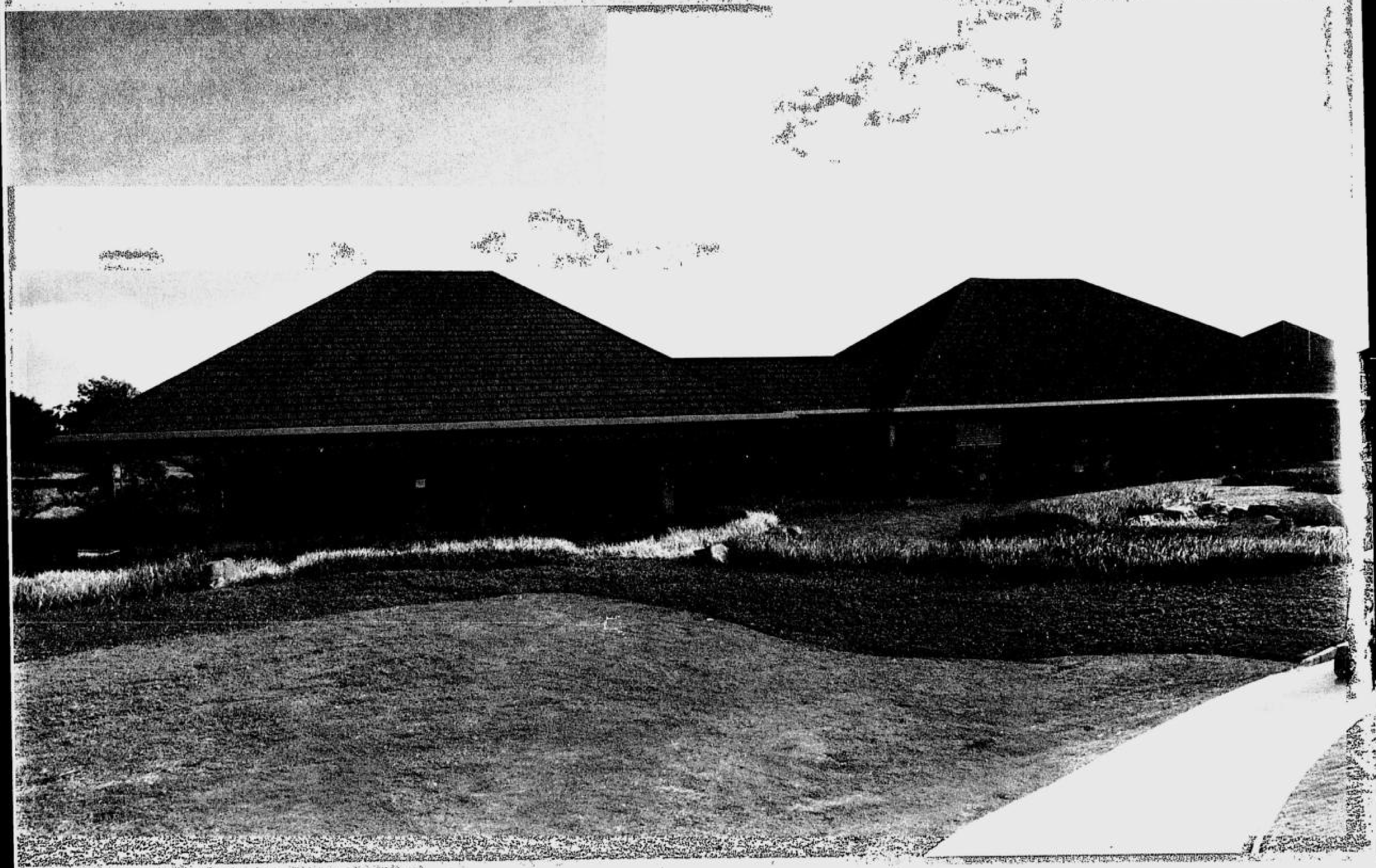
While those are the must-haves, there are a lot of would-like-to-haves that are steadily becoming imperative with discerning property buyers. Aside from location and accessibility, amenities and excellent after-sales service are becoming increasingly important for property hunters.

Ideally, your purchase should be able to cross out majority, if not all, of the points you have outlined.

Once you have a clear picture of your requirements, the logical next step is to research available properties that match your needs. This includes knowing available property developers, who are not only able to make perspectives and renditions that are beautiful to look at, but more importantly can actually deliver on these grandiose plans. It's always ideal to transact with reputable property developers, with proven track records in building quality products on time.

And once you've decided on a property, find a knowledgeable sales agent who will be able to match the nuances of your requirements with the property that comes closest to your dream home.

Going through all these steps will lessen the chances of remorse at the end. Because at the end of the day, that is what doing your homework achieves.■



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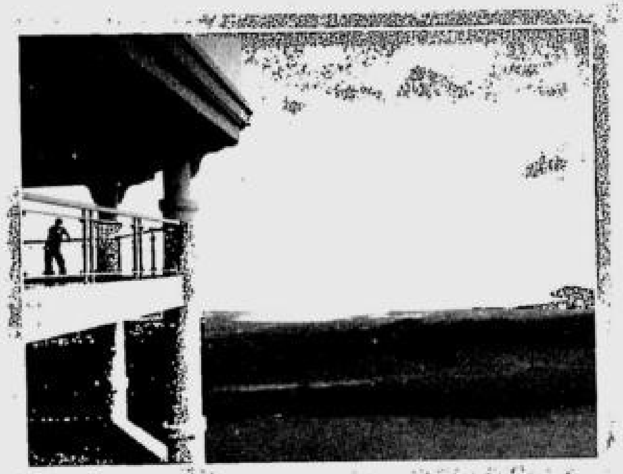
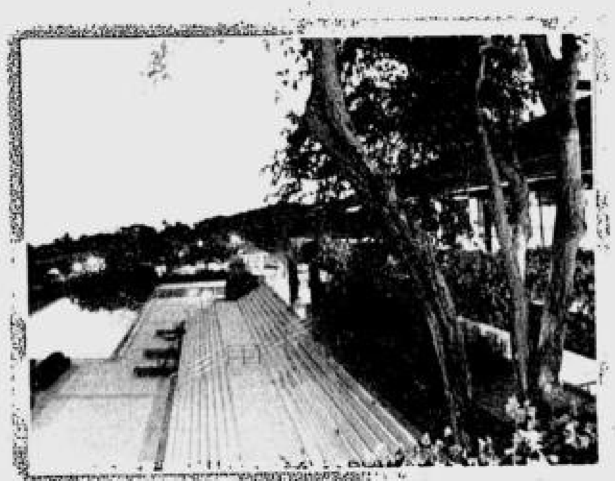
from every possible angle at the Ayala



View Deck



Village Clubhouse

Jacuzzi

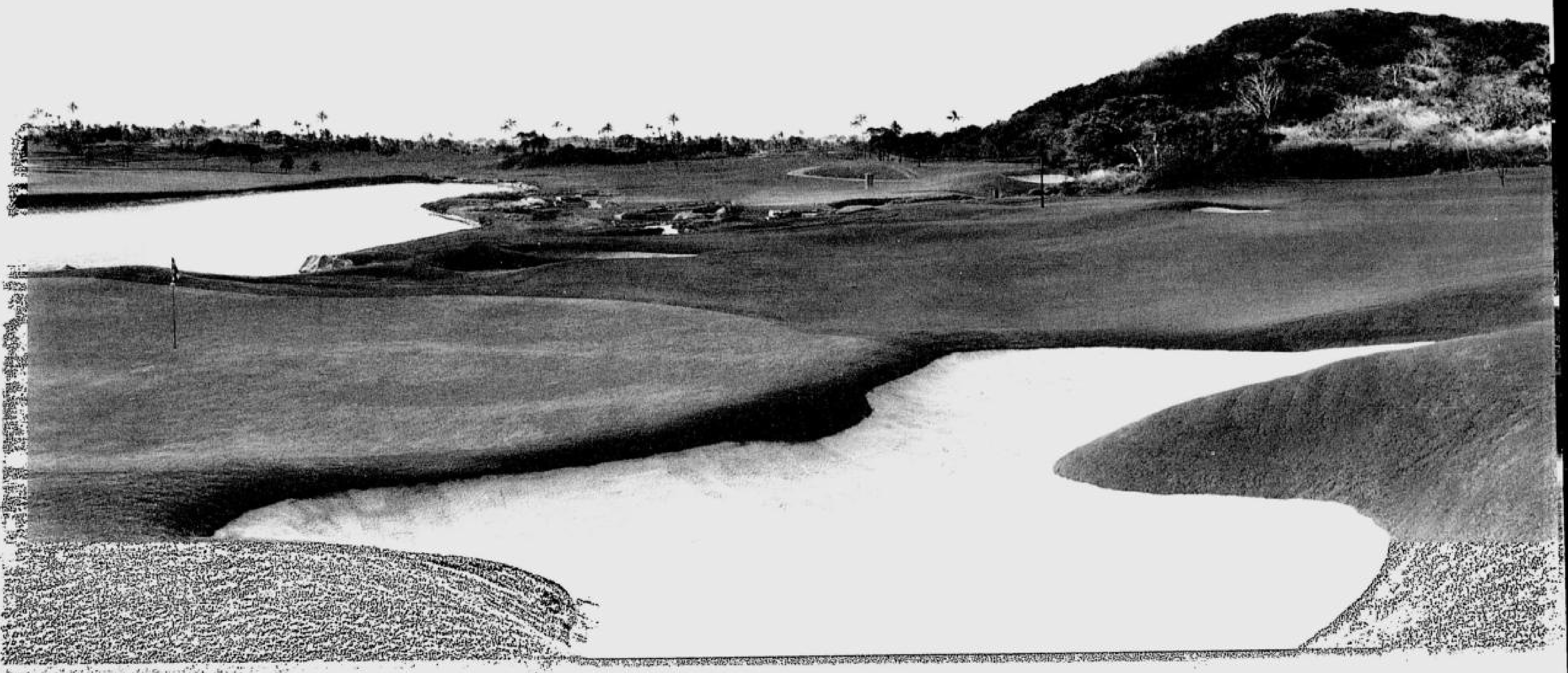
Fishing Lagoon

Playfield

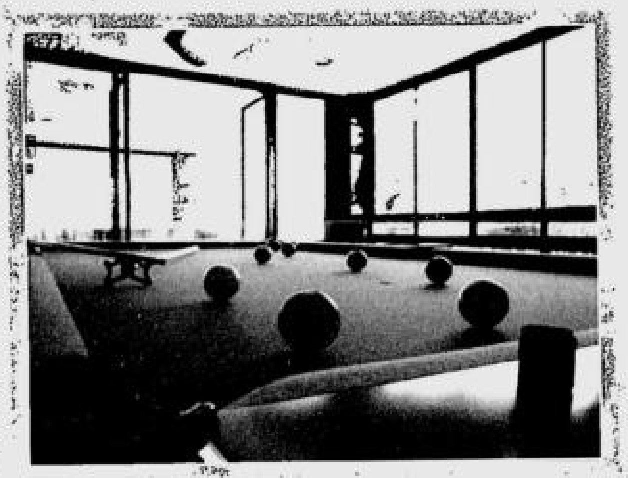
Picnic Huts

from any point of view, this is your personal paradise

AyalaLand PREMIER



# Greenfield Estates.

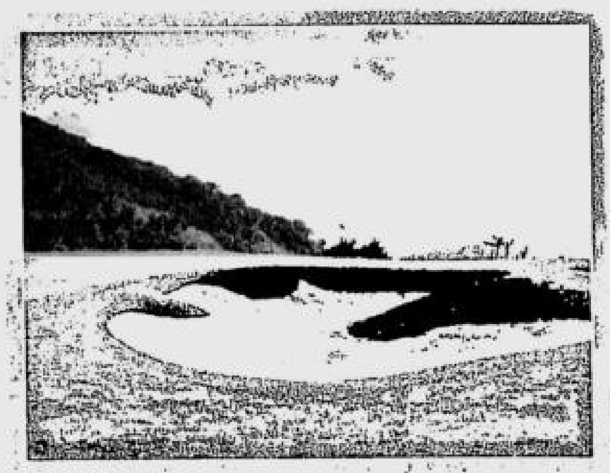

Game Room

Badminton Court

Tennis Court

Tree House

Golf Clubhouse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AYALA GREENFIELD ESTATES

# NATURE AT ITS BEST

A wide expanse of blue and green, where the sky meets countless trees, foliage and exotic plants, a historic mountain that looms majestically over the southern sky, a golf course that brings together the best of the elements to create a world-class challenge.

Some would call this 500-hectare development 30 minutes south of Alabang a personal paradise that combines nature at its grandest and leisure at its most luxurious for the most discriminating of residents. But leading high-end real-estate developer Ayala Land Premier calls it by another name—Ayala Greenfield Estates.

Ayala Greenfield Estates provides a view of grandness anywhere you look. The landscaped grounds are a masterpiece. The flora provides a magnificent backdrop to any family scene. And the cool mountain breezes of Mt. Makiling comfort both mind and body. It is hard to believe that it's just a short drive from Metro Manila.

Clearly, the subdivision's extensive range of amenities and conveniences are set amid the wonders of Mother Nature. A 15-hectare Nature Park with picnic groves and other amenities such as an open playfield, tree groves, hike and bike trails, a skating rink, a fishing lagoon and camp and picnic sites provide the perfect place for you and your family to live, to grow, and most of all, to dream.

The Village Clubhouse is the perfect spot for those social gatherings with neighbors and friends. With social halls of different sizes, function rooms and even a coffee shop, you can easily share an idle chat with visitors from the metropolis or have that much-awaited reunion with relatives from all over the world.

And for the discerning golf enthusiast, the Ayala Greenfield Estates' 18-hole, all-weather, championship golf course designed by world-renowned golf course designer Robert Trent Jones, Jr. will challenge golfers of all skill levels and promises a unique round of golf with each game. This sprawling golfer's haven, being a stone's throw away from your front lawn, will make you the envy of your business partners and colleagues.

The Ayala Greenfield Golf & Leisure Club provides other facilities as well like lockers and showers, and other sports facilities. A Spa and Wellness Center will be available for the rejuvenation of tired bodies. These are just some of the perks of being in the thick of the grandness of nature.

Living in Ayala Greenfield Estates is like putting together in one vast relaxing environment all the wants and needs that you and your family enjoy. That is why for many Filipinos here and abroad looking to find a respite from stressful living, the Ayala Greenfield Estates is the closest they can get to perfection.

It is the perfect reward for those who have persevered to experience what the world has to offer and who, in turn, expect only the best. It is time for you to stake a claim on your dream home at Ayala Greenfield Estates – after all, having your home right in the middle of the grandness of nature is the greatest privilege and reward.

Ayala Greenfield Estates is one of the choicest, exclusive residences managed and marketed by Ayala Land Premier, the high-end business unit of Ayala Land, whose excellent brand of service and care has led to the development of innovatively designed and exceptionally engineered, first-class abodes over the last few decades. It is developed by Ayala Greenfield Development Corporation. ■

## Where Golf is a Lifestyle.

For golf aficionados, life is a daily retreat at Ayala Greenfield Estates in Calamba, Laguna. Designed by the world-renowned golf course designer Robert Trent Jones, Jr., the course challenges the player both physically and mentally. All it takes is a short walk or drive and before you know it, you are on the fairway ready to tee off.

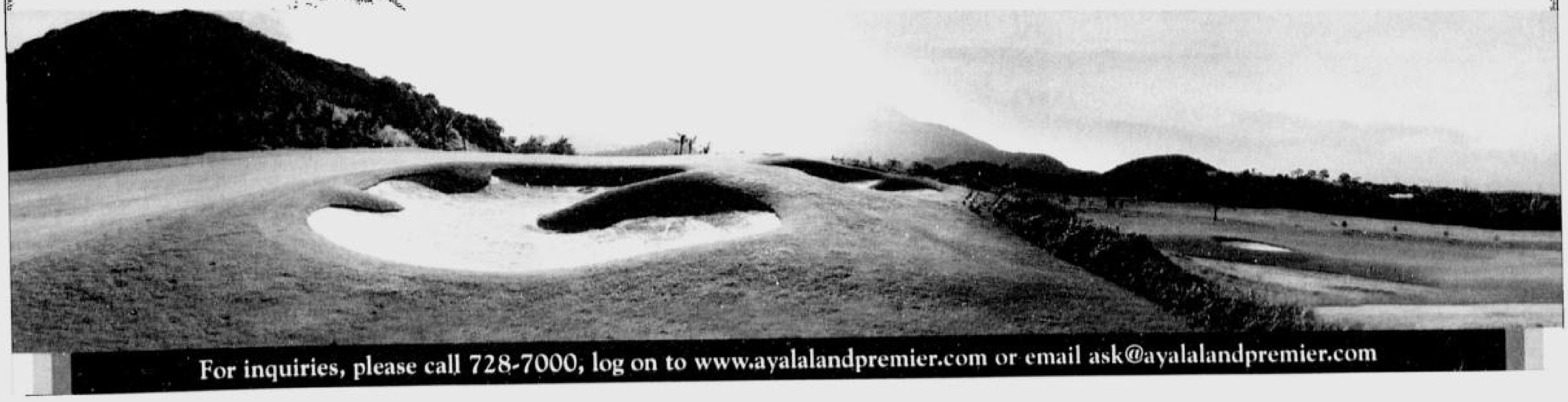
Ayala Greenfield's Golf and Leisure Club is the reason this exclusive residential community is a haven for golf lovers and their families. Only the highest level of service is the golf and leisure club's philosophy, says seasoned golfer and now general manager of the Golf and Leisure Club, Laurent Lamasuta.

"We want to bring quality to everything we have and do. The facilities, food, and the many amenities reflect that. Ayala Greenfield enhances the importance of family. Spending time together is important, and this place gives each member of the family his or her own piece of nature and many worthwhile activities to enjoy."

Ayala Greenfield Estates is a community that caters to individual passions and at the same time nurtures the happiness and pleasure of your whole family with its varied amenities and with its awe-inspiring environment. With 360-degree views of the grandness of nature, each day is truly something to look forward to at Ayala Greenfield Estates.

Ayala Greenfield Estates, located just 30 minutes from Alabang, is one of the high-end, exclusive premier residences managed and marketed by Ayala Land Premier, the high-end business unit of Ayala Land.

Ayala Land Premier is the first real estate developer to meet the needs of discerning homeowners through premium residences, set amid equally prime locations, giving only the best and most luxurious options in real estate. Innovatively designed and exceptionally engineered, with first-class amenities, wide spacious areas and exquisite details, Ayala Land Premier developments are true testaments to what constitutes genuine quality living. ■



For inquiries, please call 728-7000, log on to www.ayalalandpremier.com or email ask@ayalalandpremier.com